

ARE YOU IN THE "NO ZONE"?



"Share the Road"

Missouri Department of Transportation's

Motor Carrier Service Division

Transportation and Civil Engineering Program

and

Linn State Technical College Summer Transportation Institute

Highway Safety is very important to the trucking industry. Highways are the workplace where one out of every 15 Missourians makes their living. All trucking and transportation employees know the importance of having all highway users "Share the Road" safely.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and the Missouri Motor Carriers Association partnered with Linn State Technical College and the Missouri Department of Transportation to educate of the Summer Transportation Institute attendees, Transportation and Civil Engineering Program attendees and Motor Carrier Services Division employees on the "No Zone" areas around a commercial motor vehicle.

Ron Breau, Vice President of the Missouri Motor Carriers Association, Gary Leu and Darrell Griffin drivers employed by Wal-Mart's Transportation Division provided information to the attendees on the importance of the trucking industry to Missouri's economy.

The trucking industry employs over 182,000 Missourians. The majority of employers in our industry are small locally owned businesses who take pride that they are essential to the state's economy. In fact, the industry transports almost 81 percent of the total manufactured material made in America. The industry has coined the slogan many years ago "If you got it a truck brought it" because almost 75 percent of communities depend exclusively on trucks to move goods.

The industry is a major contributor to the over 32,000 miles of highways in the State of Missouri. The industry pays approximately 900 million dollars in federal and state roadway taxes and fees. This accounts for 43 percent of the taxes and fees owed by motorists; however, the industry only represents fewer than 15 percent of the total vehicle miles driven in the state.

These Share the Road demonstrations are an essential part in educating all motorists on the dangers around a commercial motor vehicle. "Through education we can make our highways safer for all users," Ron Breau told the attendees.



According to Gary Leu "Wal-Mart's commitment to safety is demonstrated by the equipment and technology that they provide to their drivers and they are pleased to have the opportunity to share their knowledge." Gary went on to say that he and Darrell have over 7 million miles of safe driving. That mark is challenged every day when they get in their trucks to deliver goods to their stores.





Darrell Griffin pointed out that through the demonstration the attendees will become better drivers by learning how to operate vehicles around big trucks."

Following discussion the groups adjourned to the demonstration area so they could experience the "NO ZONES".

See more photos below.



Gary Leu showed some of the participants the additional mirrors that Wal-Mart has mounted on all their trucks to help the drivers with the right side blind spot. The right side of a commercial vehicle has the largest "NO Zone" area. These mirrors help the driver by providing him with the ability to see vehicles that could be in that area around the vehicle. Notice the Missouri Department of Transportation Dump Truck that is parked on this side of the vehicle. Without the spot mirror the driver will not be able to see even that large vehicle.



The group then moved to the rear of the vehicle where another MoDOT vehicle was parked. The vehicle is approximately 50 feet behind the truck and from this angle you can barely see the vehicle. The picture below is from inside the vehicle looking out the right side mirror. "Can you see me now?"



The attendees came forward on the left side where another MoDOT vehicle is staged in the left side blind spot. The left side blind spot is smaller than the blind spot on the right side of the vehicle because the driver is positioned behind the wheel on the left side of the vehicle. However, the area near the front of the trailer is a blind spot where the driver can not see a vehicle. As one of the attendees was exiting the vehicle, Darrell told the group to be sure that they can see the driver's eyes in the truck's mirror. If they can see the driver's eyes then the driver can see their vehicle.







This picture, taken from the driver's seat, shows the left side spot mirror which helps the driver to see the vehicles in the left "No Zone" without that mirror the vehicle in the "No Zone" will disappear from view.

Next Darrell asks a young lady if she can see the vehicle on the right side, she shifts forward in the seat trying to see the vehicle without the benefit of the right side spot mirror. Darrell reminds her that with her seat belt fastened she could not move that far forward in order to see.





The drivers stressed the importance of a proper following distance. Darrell indicated that it takes the length of a football field to stop a loaded truck at 60 miles per hour.



Can you see the cars turn signal and brakes lights in the photo below?









The drivers closed the demonstration with several questions, "What is a piece of a tire that is lying on or beside the road called?," and "Why?" as well as "What is the cause of the tire separation?" Many of the attendees knew that the remnants of a tire are called an alligator. Some even knew it is called that because if you run up onto it, a portion will snap up and hit your car. Very few knew that the tire separation is caused primarily from an under inflated tire.



Missouri Motor Carriers Association, on behalf of the industry, would like to thank Linn Technical College and the Missouri Department of Transportation for allowing us the opportunity to help improve safety on the highways.