

How to Avoid Aggressive Drivers:

Get out of their way and steer clear of them on the road.

Stay relaxed. Remember that reaching your destination safely and calmly is your goal.

Don't challenge them. Avoid eye contact. Ignore rude gestures and refuse to return them.

Give them the benefit of the doubt. Not all aggressive driving behavior is directed at you.

Don't block the passing lane, especially if you are driving slower than most of the traffic. Move to the right lane.

Dial #77 on a cell phone to report aggressive drivers or call your local police when you can.

How to Avoid being an Aggressive Driver:

Allow more travel time to get to your destination. It reduces stress dramatically.

Come to a full stop at red lights and stop signs. Never run yellow lights.

Let other drivers merge with you.

Obey posted speed limits.

Don't ever follow other drivers too closely.

Resist temptation to teach someone "a lesson."

Concentrate on driving, not on cell phones, stereo, passengers or other distractions.

Remember that you can't control traffic, but you can control yourself, your driving, and your emotions.

Effective Methods to Combat the Problem – and Its Causes

Police, government officials, trauma experts, and others in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia have been concerned about aggressive drivers for years. In looking for solutions, they created the Smooth Operator Program:

- Today more than 300 law enforcement agencies coordinate efforts to target aggressive drivers, conducting four enforcement "waves" over the summer months. Since 1997, over 1.8 million citations and warnings have been issued for aggressive driving acts.
- Enforcement waves coincide with advertising blitzes to inform the public, stigmatize the behavior, and shame aggressive drivers into respecting safety and the law.
- Other methods include development of high-technology law enforcement strategies and tools.
- Research and evaluations are conducted to study the problem and solutions.
- The program is guided by an impressive array of professionals who meet regularly and share information to better understand the triggers and ways of curbing the threat.



District of Columbia ■ Maryland ■ Pennsylvania ■ Virginia
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I'm an Aggressive Driver.
STOP
or get tickets, fines and points.



The Smooth Operator program is a public safety initiative providing solutions for the problem of aggressive driving.

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Smooth Operator Works.

- To stop** aggressive driving.
- To reduce** crashes, injuries and fatalities.
- To protect** everyone on our roads.
- To make living,** working, and playing safer for all of us.

The District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia are partnering through the Smooth Operator Program to combat aggressive driving. Law enforcement agencies, trauma experts, government officials and other professionals are working together to bring about change and stigmatize aggressive driving behavior on our roads.

Aggressive Drivers



Aggressive Driving Is A Problem

Aggressive driving has become a serious problem on our roadways. What is aggressive driving? Most of us know it when we see it. Aggressive driving is defined as occurring when “an individual commits a combination of moving traffic offenses so as to endanger other persons or property.”

What Area Drivers Say:

- Aggressive drivers are one of the greatest threats people face on the road – ahead of drunk driving, large trucks, congestion, and other concerns.
- 44 percent of drivers say other threats pale in comparison to aggressive driving.
- Most drivers say they personally have seen aggressive driving so dangerous that it puts others on the road at risk.
- 55 percent say the problem is getting worse.
- Speeding plays a big role. Excessive speed is involved in one third of all fatal crashes!

It's Not Only Anger

Impatience, hurrying, stress, irritation at something totally unrelated to driving – these can all lead to unsafe driving behavior. This endangers, infuriates, and antagonizes other drivers. When frustration and anger levels get high, concern for fellow motorists becomes low.

Congestion Breeds Aggression

Crowded roads take extra time, raise frustration, and reduce civility and good driving manners. This creates an environment that encourages conflict. Our roads are so crowded that fender-benders, potholes, rain – even sun glare – can cause chain reactions of problems. Add aggressive driving to the mix and you have a dangerous situation.

Motorcycle Riders

Aggressive driving by motorcycle riders is a growing problem on our roadways. Motorcycles are more powerful than ever before, and capable of dangerous speeds. Motorcycles racing through highway traffic is a crash waiting to happen and most motorcycle crashes result in injury or death.


We're Tough on Aggressive Drivers!
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or be stopped.



A Contagious Problem

Aggressive driving is highly contagious. When you watch another driver's offensive behavior on the road, or see them get away with violations of the law, it can make you angry and frustrated and convince you that you, too, can drive carelessly.

React to an aggressive driver and you become part of the problem. Unsafe behavior passes from driver to driver down the road.

When you drive aggressively with children in the vehicle, you teach them to drive like you do, even before they have a driver's license. Kids learn by example. They're constantly watching and learning.

And always remember to buckle up. It is the best defense against an aggressive driver.

Around Larger Vehicles

Aggressive driving around trucks and buses is dangerous. They have larger blind spots and can not see drivers that are following too closely or speeding past them. Larger vehicles can not stop quickly; and, in a crash, a truck or bus on a car is like a sledge hammer on a tin can. All drivers need to keep a safe distance from larger vehicles.

Do You Ever Drive Aggressively?

Drive too fast, over the posted speed limit?

Roll through red lights or stop signs?

Weave in and out of traffic, or make unsafe lane changes?

Tailgate other vehicles?

These are the most dangerous aggressive driving behaviors. The fact is, most drivers drive this way at times. Anytime you hurry, and become selfish, bold or pushy in your vehicle, you stop respecting the rights and safety of other drivers and pedestrians.

