

Did You Know?

According to 2020 Occupational Health and Safety data (OSHA.gov), rear end collisions were down. An obvious rationale for the decrease is the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Being hit while parked became the most common type of accident in 2020 and pandemic shifts in traffic patterns for rush hour traffic and school runs played a significant role in the decrease of rear end collisions.

However, Rear-End accidents continue to be one of the most common types of vehicle accidents for agencies in the State of Louisiana insurance program.

Prevention:

There are several contributing factors to rear end collisions, some of which need consideration prior to driving:

- Distractions
- Speeding and not driving safely for the road conditions
- Following too close to the car in front of you
- Position of loads on a trailer
- Fatigue
- Mechanical breakdown

Distances to consider and be aware of:

- Perception distance: The number of feet your vehicle travels for the time you recognize brake lights ahead of you, until you see and process the event.
- Reaction distance: The number of feet your vehicle travels before you recognize the hazard and when you actually brake.
- Braking distance: The number of feet your vehicle travels from braking to when your vehicle comes to a stop.

While not all rear-end collisions may be avoidable, there are things you can do as part of your driving habits, that can help avoid rear-end accidents:

- Maintain a safe following distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- Drive in a defensive posture and be ready to react to other vehicles braking, swerving, etc.
- Scan your surroundings and watch for brake lights, change in traffic signals, pedestrians and emergency vehicles.
- Plan your trip and be aware of weather and traffic conditions.
- Increase following distance during bad weather (rain, snow, fog, etc.).
- Slow down at intersections.
- When stopping at intersections, keep a car length's distance between your car and other cars.
- Yellow lights mean prepare to stop, so do not assume the car in front of you will go through the intersection.
- Ensure your brake lights operate correctly.
- Keep windshields clean so that you have clear vision and can react to other vehicles.
- Watch for aggressive drivers and try to avoid being in their path.
- Never drive while intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.
- Do not drive when fatigued.
- Wear a seatbelt – it is the law.
- Do not text, read, eat, reach for distant objects or perform other distracting activities while driving.
- Follow the posted speed limit signs.

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