

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

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IMPROPER LANE CHANGE COACHING TOPIC

The Issue

An improper lane change usually occurs when a driver fails to pay attention to other traffic around their vehicle. Drivers must monitor their mirrors and make appropriate preparation to change lanes. In addition to checking in the mirrors for any other vehicles that may be using the lane you desire to occupy, you need to also signal your intentions by activation of the turn signal.

Wait several seconds after you have checked your mirrors...have found the space to appear to be clear for you to occupy, and have signaled your intention to move or change lanes.

Our Concern

The problem with making an improper lane change is the potential for causing a collision by cutting off other vehicles that may be in the blind spot. These other vehicles may not be able to react quickly enough to your sudden or unannounced (signaled) lane change. Typically the result of a driver's failure to double check mirrors for other vehicles, and failure to signal an intended change of lanes is...a vehicle collision. Depending on the speed of the vehicles, other vehicles that can also be involved, and the force of vehicles hitting together, the results can be very serious. *Think...Carelessness is Dangerous!*

Don't be the driver responsible for creating a dangerous situation.

BE A SAFE AND COURTEOUS DRIVER

A Solution

Stay in your own lane and be patient. Practice your known defensive driving skills by:

- Preplanning your move
- Double checking your mirrors for the presence of other vehicles
- Signaling your intentions by activating your turn signals
- Waiting to be sure the lane you desire to move to remains open & clear
- Making a smooth and safe lane change.