

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

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WEAVING IN TRAFFIC COACHING TOPIC

The Issue

If you have been observed weaving in traffic, this typically means that you are changing from lane to lane in a reckless or dangerous manner. Usually this activity is a result of a need to rush or the desire to be first or get there first.

Another reason why someone might be weaving in traffic is inattention to driving, or some impairment...either physical or mental. In either case, weaving in traffic can be a hazardous maneuver.

Have you ever noticed that persons around you who are constantly changing lanes, often times end up stuck in a lane of traffic and you (who have maintained a somewhat constant speed and stayed in your own lane of traffic) will pass them? Or have you observed them changing lanes and speeding ahead of you only to have you catch up to them at the next traffic light? Was all of that changing of lanes necessary?

Our Concern

The concern with the issue of weaving in traffic is the potential for causing a collision as a result of cutting off other vehicles. The potential for others to inappropriately react to your vehicle weaving in front of them is a real concern. When a collision occurs, there is a good chance of someone receiving multiple injuries. This is all avoidable with appropriate defensive driving activities.

A Solution

Don't get involved in weaving in traffic. Stay in your own lane and be patient. It is better to arrive a little late than to not arrive at all. You should drive safely at all times and observe the following defensive driving activities.

- Scan ahead and get the full picture of what is going on around you
- Slow down if necessary and stay in your own lane
- Keep an appropriate following distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you...usually at least four (4) seconds. (Add more seconds in case of inclement weather conditions).
- Check your mirrors to be sure no one is in your blind spot prior to making any lane change.
- Watch for any road hazards that could damage your vehicle or cause you to need to make a safe evasive maneuver (i.e. potholes, tire parts, or other equipment that may have fallen onto the roadway).