

FAST FACTS



There are approximately **138** crashes *each day* in the United States involving a large truck and a teen driver.

78% of crashes and near-crashes between a light vehicle and a large truck were initiated by the light-vehicle driver.

83% of fatalities from crashes involving a large truck are individuals who were not inside the truck.

At **65 mph**, it may take a tractor-trailer the length of two football fields or longer to stop, depending on weather and road conditions

Large trucks have **4** large no-zones – plus, the larger the truck, the larger the no-zones.

Tractor-trailer drivers **do not** have better visibility just because they sit higher off the ground.

Remember, large trucks do not have rearview mirrors.



Did You Know?

Nearly 50% of driver's education programs in the United States are not required to cover how to safely share the road with trucks or other large vehicles.



The Sharing the Road Program is designed to educate young drivers on how to safely share the road with large trucks. However, all drivers can benefit from reviewing the materials and scenarios on this website, to ensure they are properly sharing the road in their everyday driving.

If you are interested in bringing VTTI's safety experts to your driver education program or school, please contact us for more information:

Sharingtheroad@vtti.vt.edu

VIRGINIA TECH 
TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

Sharing the Road with Trucks

High School Outreach



SAFETY

POLICY

RESEARCH

OUTREACH

PARTNERSHIP



VIRGINIA TECH 
TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

In-Person Program

The program consists of two components: an in-class presentation followed by a hands-on truck experience. The following learning objectives will be accomplished:

1. Learn about the prevalence and some of the main causes of teen crashes, including those with large trucks.
2. Understand the physics of large trucks and how they differ from passenger vehicles.
3. Learn the five key strategies to keep you safe when driving around large trucks.
4. Observe real-world examples of improper passenger vehicle behavior.
5. Gain firsthand knowledge from sitting in the driver's seat and walking around the no-zones of a tractor-trailer.

In-Class Presentation

The in-class presentation takes approximately 20 minutes and utilizes auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learning approaches to ensure all students can benefit. Each of the five key strategies incorporates image and real-world video to enhance the learning effect and set the stage for the hands-on truck experience. Ample time is provided for questions at the end of the presentation.

The Hands-on Truck Experience

Once outside, students are broken into groups and rotate through stations. Stations include:

- In-cab truck experience
- Rear/passenger side no-zone
- Driver's side no-zone
- Tent with videos

As students move through each station, the key strategies will be reinforced so they can visualize how to stay safe when encountering these large trucks. The in-cab experience allows students to sit in the driver's seat of the truck and see how big the blind spots are while also gaining firsthand knowledge of the overall lack of visibility.

What We Do

Safety, Education, & Outreach Programs



Classroom and hands-on experiences



The Sharing the Road program also partners with more organizations such as law enforcement, State Farm, victim impact speakers and more. When available, these organizations will each have a station and an opportunity to speak with the students.



Logistics

Customized Programs Make it Easy

We handle all logistics, including personnel, vehicles, equipment, and instructional materials. The program is flexible, and we can stay for an entire school day. We can also be there 2 days in a row to accommodate block schedules, other alternative schedules, and schools that have shorter class periods (e.g. 45 minutes). Please inquire for more information about our flexibility and scheduling options.

We Offer Two Virtual Options

These programs combine all the content from the in-person presentation and the hands-on demonstration to ensure students obtain a basic understanding of the key strategies to safely share the road with large trucks

Virtual Option 1

Approximately 45-minute online class using your choice of conferencing options such as Zoom, Google Meet, Teams, etc. Students will receive the same in-class presentation content, followed by our virtual truck walk-around.

Virtual Option 2

Option 2 is a four-part YouTube video series. Each video is approximately 6 minutes long and provides an overview of the key topics covered in the in-class presentation and the hands-on truck experience.

For more information or to schedule a visit, email:
Sharingtheroad@vtti.vt.edu

