

The Blind Side

Mark Welch — Safety Officer



Have you ever been out on a nice ride when suddenly a vehicle moves into your lane as if you were not even there? There is a good chance that you were in his blind spot where he was not able to see you. We have to do everything possible

when riding a motorcycle to make ourselves more visible to other motorists. Wearing brightly colored clothing can help. Adding lights to your bike can also help. If you don't want to pay for additional lights, just ride next to Fred Fryer. You won't even need any lights next to his bike.

Motorcycles have a blind spot as well. You should have a 360-degree space cushion around you so you should be constantly checking your rear view mirrors. They are concave so that you have a wider field of vision in them. But because of that, they distort the image, making objects in them appear to be further away than they actually are. Never rely on your mirrors alone before making a lane change. You should also turn your head to check for traffic before moving over.

You may have not spent a lot of time considering this, but big trucks have a lot of blind spots so you should always use extra caution whenever you are around them. If you have to pass one, pass with commitment. Don't lollygag next to them because they will not see you. Not only do the big trucks have

blind spots to their sides, they also have blind spot directly in front of them and behind them.

Allow for plenty of room when riding or switching lanes in front of a truck. A semi's hood conceals part of the road in front of the truck. When riding front of a semi, use this rule of thumb: be sure to see the entire front of the truck, including both headlights, in your rearview mirror.

Do not follow closely. A truck cannot see you when you are directly behind it. Additionally, you can't see anything in front of the semi if you are closely following, making it impossible to see anything in the road that might cause the semi driver to take evasive action.



Pass a truck with care. Remember, 18-wheelers have huge blind spots alongside their vehicles that can extend a few lanes. To stay safe as you pass a semi: 1. Signal early. 2. Pass quickly to get through their blind spots. 3. Expect some turbulence when moving from behind a truck.

Avoid the truck's right side when it is turning right as it will need to approach a right turn from a position that is pretty far to the left. Trucks need a wide berth to make turns and sometimes require an extra lane.

Should you find yourself in a position where a truck gets

along side of you then goes at the same speed you are going, adjust your speed to stay out of their blind spot.

Share the road! Head and eyes. Ride safe.

Mark