

Life in the Fast Lane Causes Accidents

Aggressive driving is a leading cause of accidents. It is often a factor in rear-end collisions, failure-to-yield the right-of-way, and hitting a parked vehicle or pedestrian. You might be an aggressive driver if you:

- **Express frustration.** Taking out your frustrations on your fellow motorists can lead to violence or a crash.
- **Fail to pay attention.** Reading, eating, drinking, or talking on the cell phone can lead to accidents.
- **Tailgate.** This is a major cause of crashes that can result in death or serious injury.
- **Make frequent lane changes.** If you whip in and out of lanes, you endanger other motorists.
- **Run red lights.** Never enter an intersection on a yellow light. Treat a flashing red light as a stop sign.
- **Speed.** If you drive faster than the posted speed limit, engage in “road racing,” or drive too fast for road or weather conditions, you’re speeding.

Here are some tips to avoid aggressive driving:

- **Plan ahead.** Know your route and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination.
- **Concentrate.** Don’t talk on the phone, eat, drink, or put on makeup while driving.
- **Relax.** But remember to be aware of your environment and not lose your focus on the road.
- **Drive the posted speed limit.** Fewer crashes occur when vehicles are traveling at or about the same speed.
- **Identify alternate routes.** Even if a new route looks longer on paper, it may be less congested.
- **Just be late.** If all else fails, just be late.

Here’s what to do if you encounter aggressive drivers:

- Get out of their way.
- Do not challenge them by speeding up or trying to hold your own in your travel lane.
- Avoid eye contact—it can enrage an aggressive driver.
- Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- Report serious aggressive driving to the police.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.