

Safety around trucks and buses



Due to their size, trucks and buses have larger blind spots than the average car. This means that these drivers may not always be able to see you. For everyone's safety, always be cautious when driving or riding next to, or behind, a truck or bus.

As freight volumes increase on our roads, knowing how to safely share the road with trucks and buses is becoming more important. Crashes involving these vehicles are often serious because of their size and weight, regardless of who is at fault.



The facts

- Between 2015-2019, 34 people were killed and 295 were seriously injured in heavy bus crashes across the state. Of the 34 people killed, 13 were pedestrians, 11 were drivers, six were passengers, three were motorcycle riders and one was a bicycle rider.
- In 2019, there were 868 casualty crashes involving a heavy truck or a heavy bus, which included 64 people killed and 297 people being seriously injured.
- While trucks and buses make up only 2.5 per cent of NSW motor vehicle registrations, they were involved in about 18 per cent of all road fatalities in 2019.

Be truck and bus aware

Because of their size and mass, crashes involving trucks and buses can cause severe outcomes for other road users. Trucks and buses can't stop quickly and have large blind spots. When sharing the road with trucks and buses, you need to take extra care.

> Stopping distances

Trucks and buses can't stop as quickly as some other vehicles on our roads. A B-double truck (unloaded) travelling at only 40km/h can take up to 35 metres to stop, and at 60km/h the stopping distance almost doubles to 67 metres. In comparison, a car (unloaded) takes about 27 metres to stop travelling at 40km/h and about 56 metres to stop when travelling at 60km/h.

> Blind spots

Take extra care around trucks and buses and remember that they can't always see you. When driving or riding alongside a truck or bus, try to allow for extra space to ensure that the driver can see you.

Motorcycle riders should avoid lane filtering near trucks and buses. Trucks and buses have multiple blind spots and motorcycle riders are at increased risk because of their decreased visibility and lack of protection.

Trucks have 4 main blind spots



How to stay safe

As a driver or rider:

- Avoid merging too closely in front of trucks or buses.
- Don't overtake a truck or bus when it's turning and leave space on either side, as they often need extra space and may take up more than one lane.
- Trucks and buses have larger blind spots than the average car. This means truck drivers may not be able to see you. So be cautious when driving or riding next to, or behind a truck or bus – can they see you?
- Bicycle riders should not pass on the inside of a truck or bus about to turn – allow the truck or bus to pass and then safely continue your journey.

- Keep a safe distance when travelling behind a bus as they may stop frequently.
- Always give way to buses pulling out from the kerb.
- Slow down to 40km/h when bus lights are flashing.

As a pedestrian:

- Avoid unexpectedly stepping in front of trucks or buses to cross the road as they may not be able to stop in time if required.

More information

Visit the Transport for NSW road safety website for information on staying safe around trucks (roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/be-truck-aware) and buses (roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/be-bus-aware) and to learn about other important road safety topics.

If you're driving for work, visit the Towards Zero website (towardszero.nsw.gov.au/workplace) to complete the Road safety: Everybody's business online learning course to learn about road safety risk and how you can stay safe on NSW roads.

