



## Get the Facts: Traffic Jam Ahead!

### In a Nutshell

The brake lights are on for miles ahead. Traffic jam! Keep calm and drive thoughtfully and you'll move through safely.

### What should I know about driving safely in traffic congestion?

With highway crowding and motorists jockeying for positions in traffic lanes, and at exits and entryways, you can find yourself stressed, frustrated and distracted, leading to driver error and high-risk driving. Driving safely requires your undivided attention. It's not time to attend to other non-driving-related work or personal tasks. When you're in a traffic jam – or any time – make safe driving your primary business.

### Traffic jam driving fundamentals

- Brush up on the “zipper” merge – take turns and the length of both lanes merge safely into reduce lanes
- Use your blinkers when changing lanes or merging.
- Use your mirrors to monitor the areas around your car. Check your blind spots before changing lanes.
- On narrow lanes, make sure you stay centered in your lane and don't cut corners.

*Road congestion can result in multiple types of crashes, all avoidable*

- *Distracted driving*
- *U-turns*
- *Chain reactions*
- *Road shoulder*
- *“Road rage”*

### Keep calm and stay safe!

- Get road ready. Being well-rested, alert, and attentive keeps you safe on the road and in a position to defend yourself from drivers in traffic jams who do not make that choice.
- Find the latest info on tie-ups, traffic jams, roadway conditions and visibility before you get behind the wheel. Adjust your route to avoid delays or plan extra drive time.
- Know the meaning of road signs, signals and pavement markings.
- Be aware of the roadway hazards that create additional stress for drivers who are already dealing with a difficult driving situation. Trees, utility poles close to the road, sharp curves, work zones, and narrow lanes with no shoulders are hazards that vehicles can crash into if they leave the roadway. Take extra care when driving through these areas or avoid them altogether.
- Remain calm — don't let your temper or frustration lead to reckless actions.
- Be courteous and share the road safely. Remember those in the vehicles around you could be your friends, neighbors, co-workers or family members.
- No gawking! The worst backups and secondary crashes can occur when drivers slow down to rubberneck at incidents.
- If you see flashing lights from an emergency vehicle coming up behind you, move over immediately.





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**Source:** State Farm

