

## **AVOIDING THE REAR-END COLLISION**

Each year, rear-end collisions account for millions of dollars in injuries and property damage. This danger is amplified when the vehicle is a van or truck. It is always important to know what's going on around and behind you.

### **THESE TIPS CAN HELP YOU AVOID A REAR-END COLLISION**

- ▶ Adjust your outside and inside rear-view mirrors before moving your vehicle.
- ▶ Keep your rear window clean.
- ▶ Flash your brake lights when you are standing, moving slowly or preparing to stop.
- ▶ Check your brake lights frequently to be sure they are working, and keep brake lights clean.
- ▶ Signal well in advance for turns, stops and lane changes.
- ▶ Slow down gradually over a long distance to give vehicles behind you more time and space in which to react.
- ▶ Never try to beat a green light — always anticipate a changing green light.
- ▶ Keep pace with traffic when road conditions, weather conditions and speed limits permit.
- ▶ Never travel in another driver's blind spot.
- ▶ Raise the hood if your vehicle stalls and can't be moved from the traffic lane. Then do everything else you can to make your disabled vehicle visible to approaching drivers.
- ▶ A stalled vehicle is particularly dangerous at night. If you have flashers, use them. A professional driver usually has a flare or other signal device handy for driving emergencies.
- ▶ Stay clear of tailgaters. Try moving to the right and letting them pass or encourage them to pass by slowing down and waving them on. Exercise greater than usual caution when slowing down to discourage tailgaters. Flash your brake lights several times, use the proper arm signal and slow down gradually as traffic permits. If the tailgater still won't pass or drop back, pull off the road. Don't let other drivers distract you into an accident.

**REAR-END COLLISIONS ARE OFTEN PREVENTABLE. REMAINING ALERT, PATIENT AND COURTEOUS CAN GO A LONG WAY TOWARD AVOIDING ACCIDENTS!**

