



## Safe Lane Changes

Although changing lanes is a common occurrence while driving, a driver must stay vigilant to avoid a potential accident. The following are ways to prevent a lane change accident:

### 1. Be Careful of Blind Spots

By being aware that other vehicles may be in a blind spot, a driver can take the appropriate actions. To mitigate blind spots, a driver should have proper mirror positioning, frequent eye movement, lean and look to update his or her knowledge of the area, and create space around the vehicle.

### 2. Find the Proper Lane

The easiest way to eliminate lane change accidents is to avoid unnecessary lane changes. By selecting the proper lane, it eliminates forced lane changes. A driver can find the proper lane by choosing the lane with the least amount of obstruction and least likely to introduce new hazards. A driver should also be driving defensively by looking ahead to identify potential hazards and, subsequently, changing lanes early.

### 3. Follow Lane Change Procedure

When a driver has determined that a lane change is necessary, he or she must follow proper lane change procedure. This includes signaling early, checking your mirrors, leaning and looking over your shoulder to check blind spots, and cancelling the signal after the lane change is complete.

### 4. Stay Aware

A driver should be most aware during the following times:

Dawn and dusk

Heavy traffic

While making right hand lane changes

When no one is around, when complacency sets in

If there are distractions that take your attention away from traffic





## Quick Quiz

1. What is the most effective way to eliminate lane change accidents?
  - A. Update your knowledge of the area only occasionally
  - B. Utilize only your rearview mirror
  - C. Avoid unnecessary lane changes
  - D. Find distractions to take your attention away from the road
2. Which of the following is **not** part of the proper lane change procedure?
  - A. Make lane change before checking all mirrors
  - B. Lean and look over your shoulder to check blind spots
  - C. Signal early
  - D. Check mirrors