



ACCESSING SAFETY KNOWLEDGE (ASK) SHEET:

TYPES OF DRIVERS ON THE ROAD – WHICH TYPE ARE YOU? (1-5)

There are a wide variety of drivers on the road. As wide as there are personalities. Do you recognize yourself in any of these?

1. **The Slowpoke Driver** – This driver takes things slowly. From driving at 10 mph to making random stops at every corner. He does not seem to have any sense of urgency. You can easily spot these drivers, but they are usually found in the passing lane – watching pedestrians and store fronts.
2. **The Irritated Driver** – This driver switches from being calm to immediate road rage in less than a second. They are quick to emotional outbursts. They are known for their ability to react with anger and passion. They are normally found in fast lanes, but don't even try to give them a hard time. They will react in an unkind manner. Unless you find their offensive gestures amusing, stay away from them.
3. **The Speeder** – Unfortunately, there are many drivers on the road who insist on going past the established speed limit – and this puts everyone around them at risk. While speed limits are meant to control traffic flow and prevent accidents, they are also calculated to ensure that the driver always has complete control of their vehicle. When a car or truck is moving too quickly, its overall traction with the road is lowered. This can make it easier for a driver to lose control and swerve if they are not paying close enough attention. Therefore, they pose a higher risk of getting in an accident than those going the designated limit.

For dealing with this kind of driver, it is often recommended that you don't react. Fortunately, they pass by quickly, allowing you to continue on your way. However, it is important that you don't try to compete with them or maneuver out of the way, as these actions could inadvertently put you in harm's way. Instead, simply let them pass.

4. **The Angry Driver** – Drivers who suffer from road rage are constantly in a hurry and will do almost anything to avoid being stuck in a traffic pile up. In their efforts to put you in their rear-view mirror, they can also be putting you and other drivers at risk of an accident. From suddenly swerving in and out of lanes to laying on their horns, these drivers will act irrationally in their anger and remove their focus from the road. Angry drivers are also prone to swearing at or even attacking other drivers on the road.

Because of the risks involved with being near an angered driver, it's important that you do your best to steer clear of them in order to deter their wrath. This may involve increasing the space between your vehicles, changing lanes, or even pulling back behind them. Likewise, if you are one of these drivers yourself, you should do everything in your power to stay calm even in the worst traffic.

5. **The Road Rager** – These drivers are constantly in a hurry and will do all kinds of illegal things to pass you and other drivers . . . so they can end up at the same stoplight as everyone else. Flashing lights, obscene gestures and language, and bursting blood vessels are tell-tale signs of the road rager.

Provided by the ASA – Houston Chapter Safety & Health Committee and **ADAMS**
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