



## TOOL BOX TALKS



### COURTESY AND SAFE DRIVING

The ability to drive a motor vehicle with courtesy and consideration for pedestrians and other motorists is one sure sign of a professional driver. Do you consider yourself a pro? Or do you bulldoze your way through traffic, race to beat a changing light or speed through residential areas? If you perform any of these unsafe maneuvers, you are a poor example of your profession.

What does it mean to be courteous? How can we be courteous when the other guy is always trying to get the jump on your vehicle?

It's easy! Don't get caught in any "me first" situations. In all cases, yield the right-of-way. Give a little ground. Trying to squeeze two or more objects into the same space just doesn't work. Believe it. Many drivers have tried and have met with a violent crash.

Courtesy means respect for others as well as yourself. Being self-centered and bull-headed while you are behind the wheel is asking for trouble.

Why not develop a courteous attitude? Obeying traffic rules, yielding the right-of-way, signaling your intentions and driving a safe vehicle are just some of the courtesies we professional drivers can extend.

Traffic rules were established to minimize the road hazards and to give every driver a fair break. Racing through stop signs, speeding and driving to the left of the centerline are all examples of a poor driving attitude.



In every situation, the right-of-way is something that is to be given, not taken. If the other driver is not following the rules, let him have the right-of-way, even if it really belongs to you. Otherwise, you will be gambling with the lives of your passengers and yourself. Signal your intentions when making a turn or changing lanes. Make the other drivers aware of what you plan to do.

Keep your vehicle in top-notch condition. Follow recommended maintenance procedures, check tires frequently and keep your vehicle clean.

Throughout the year, make due care, courtesy and common sense your gift to all fellow motorists.

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