

Aggressive Driving and “Road Rage”

Aggressive Driving

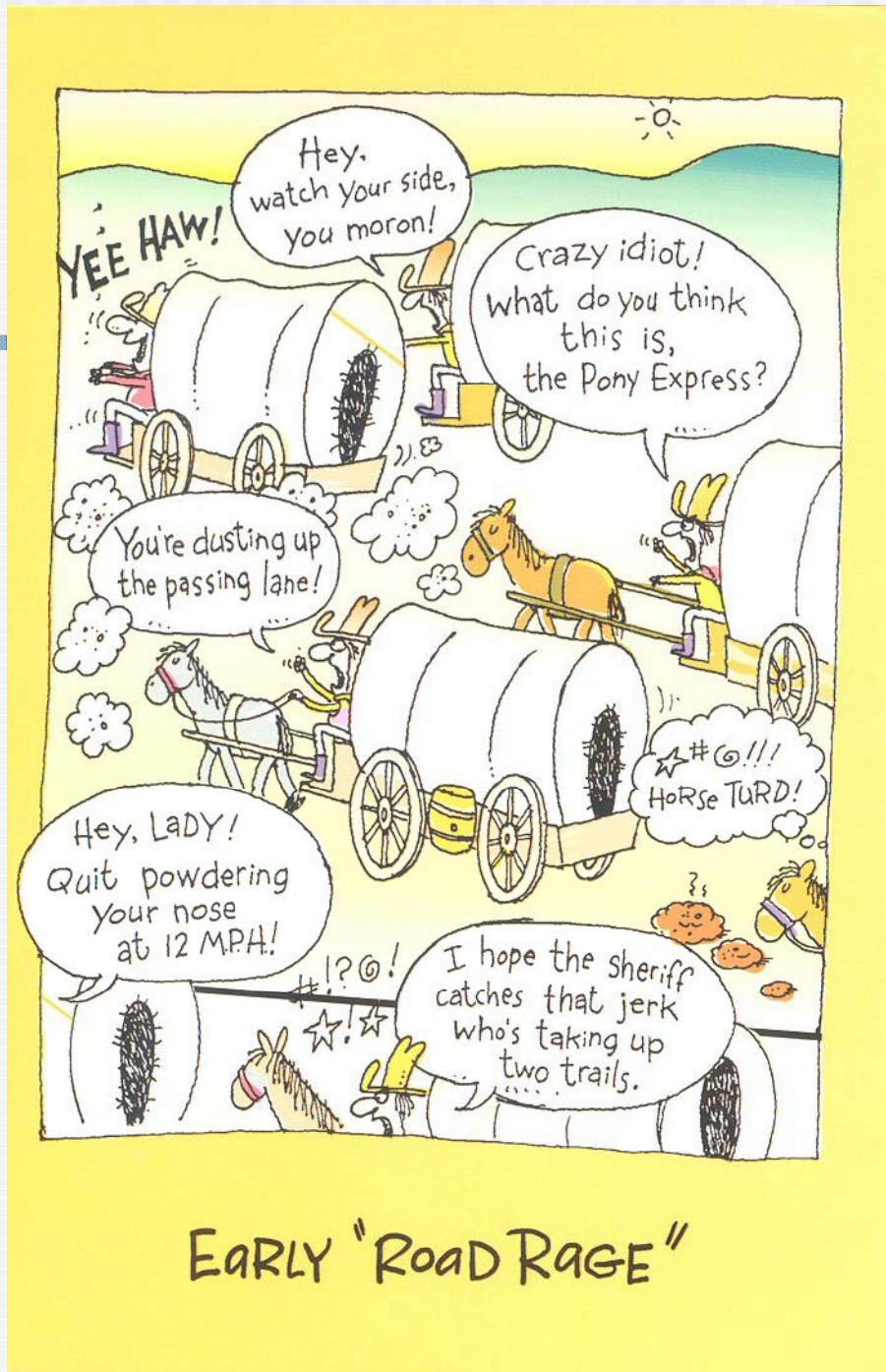
According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.....

“The commission of two or more moving violation that is likely to endanger other persons or property, or any single intentional violation that requires a defensive reaction of another driver.”



Road Rage

“An assault with a motor vehicle or other dangerous weapon by the operator or passenger(s) of one motor vehicle on the operator or passenger(s) of another motor vehicle caused by an incident that occurred on a roadway.”



EARLY "ROAD RAGE"

Contributing Factors to Road Rage

- ✓ More vehicles on the road – between 1987-1999, the number of miles of roads in the U.S. increased by 1% while the miles driven increased by 35%
- ✓ More women working outside the home and driving – between 1970-1990, the number of women licensed to drive increased 84%



Contributing Factors to Road Rage

- ✓ Sport utility vehicles – “suburban assault vehicles”
- ✓ Suburban living - longer distances to drive – average driver spends 36 hours annually in stalled traffic.
- ✓ Behaviors cross all age, race, socioeconomic and gender lines
- ✓ Persons who are characteristically cynics, rude, angry or aggressive are more prone to be aggressive drivers

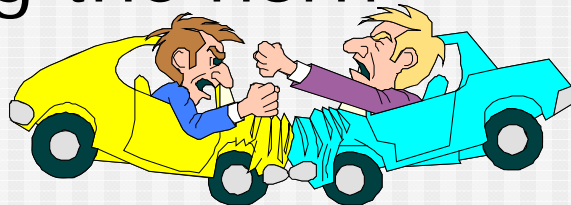
✓ Non-Driving Activities

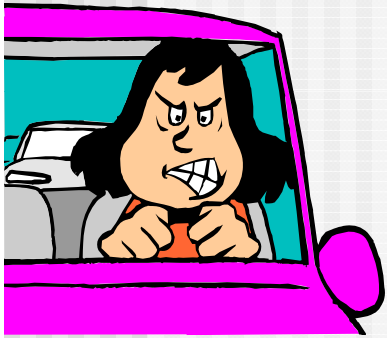


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- ✓ Scientists at Colorado State university found that one in four drivers had repeated bouts of anger that led to actions like yelling, giving the finger, speeding and cutting off the other vehicle.
 - ✓ US Dept. of Transportation estimates that 2/3 of motor vehicle fatalities are at least partially caused by aggressive driving.

Road Rage and Aggressive Driving Symptoms

- ✓ Tailgating to pressure a driver to go faster or get out of the way – following too close
- ✓ Flashing lights in order to signal persons to move to another lane
- ✓ Obscene gesturing
- ✓ Changing lanes without signaling
- ✓ Blasting the horn



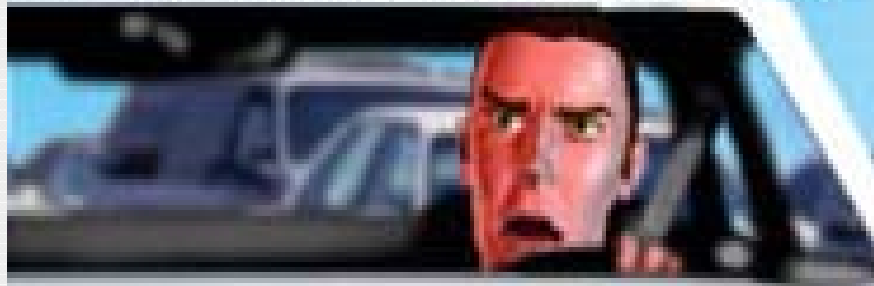


- ✓ Frequently changing lanes by weaving back and forth
- ✓ Racing to beat a yellow light that's about to turn red
- ✓ Traveling in the passing or left lane at a slower speed, making it impossible for others to pass



- ✓ Driving with the high beams on behind another vehicle or toward oncoming traffic
- ✓ Cutting people off
- ✓ Slowing down after passing someone
- ✓ Braking to get others to back off your bumper

Prime time conditions of road rage



- **Time: 4-6 p.m., Friday**
- **Season: Sunny, Summer**
- **Location: Congested, urban freeway**

■ Road Rage Incidents

- ✓ San Jose, CA – Man yanked women's dog from her car and tossed it into oncoming traffic
- ✓ Columbiana, AL – 41 year old woman shoots and kills 34 year old mother of three – sentenced to 13 years
- ✓ Woonsocket, RI – minister killed ambulance driver with high-powered cross bow

■ **What Motorists Can Do**

- ✓ Use directional lights to indicate a lane shift
- ✓ Follow the laws of the road
- ✓ Be polite and courteous
- ✓ Stay within the speed limits
- ✓ Drive at a safe following distance
- ✓ Stay mostly within one lane
- ✓ Don't become distracted by using the car phone or reading the paper while the vehicle is in motion

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- ✓ Put some physical distance between you and drivers who are behaving erratically
 - ✓ Don't show a reaction to the aggressive driver; especially, avoid eye contact
 - ✓ Avoid behaviors that antagonize or irritate others – aggressive hand gestures
 - ✓ Learn to control your temper and keep your cool in traffic

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- ✓ Use your horn sparingly
 - ✓ Keep the music in your vehicle at a level that doesn't annoy others
 - ✓ Be tolerant of those who exhibit non-conforming traffic behaviors

Are you an Aggressive Driver ?

Do you...

Yes No

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Overtake other vehicles only on the left? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid blocking passing lanes? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yield to faster traffic by moving to the right? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keep to the right as much as possible on narrow streets and at intersections? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintain appropriate distance when following other motorists, bicyclists, motorcyclists, etc.? |

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- Provide appropriate distance when cutting in after passing vehicles?
 - Use headlights in cloudy, rainy, and other low light conditions?
 - Yield to pedestrians?
 - Come to a complete stop at stop signs, before right turn on red, etc.?
 - Stop for red traffic lights?
 - Approach intersections and pedestrians at slow speeds to show your intention and ability to stop?

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- Follow right-of-way rules at four-way stops?
 - Drive below posted speed limits when conditions warrant?
 - Drive at slower speeds in construction zones?
 - Maintain speeds appropriate for conditions?
 - Use vehicle turn signals for all turns and lane changes?

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- Make eye contact and signal intentions where needed?
 - Acknowledge intentions of others?
 - Use your horn sparingly around pedestrians, at night, around hospitals, etc.?
 - Avoid unnecessary use of highbeam headlights?

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- Yield and move to the right for emergency vehicles?
 - Refrain from flashing headlights to signal a desire to pass?
 - Drive trucks at posted speeds, in the proper lanes, using non-aggressive lane changing?
 - Make slow, deliberate U-turns?

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- Maintain proper speeds around roadway crashes?
 - Avoid returning inappropriate gestures?
 - Avoid challenging other drivers?
 - Try to get out of the way of aggressive drivers?
 - Refrain from momentarily using High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to pass vehicles?

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- Focus on driving and avoid distracting activities (e.g., smoking, use of a car telephone, reading, shaving)?
 - Avoid driving when drowsy?
 - Avoid blocking the right-hand turn lane?
 - Avoid taking more than one parking space?
 - Avoid parking in a disabled space (if you are not disabled)?

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- Avoid letting your door hit the car parked next to you?
 - Avoid stopping in the road to talk with a pedestrian or other driver?
 - Avoid inflicting loud music on neighboring cars?

Score yourself... Number of “no” Answers

1-3 Excellent

4-7 Good

8-11 Fair

12+ Poor

Road Rage Crime Prevention Initiatives

- Road Rage info on police Internet website
- Legislation – Virginia passed a law on March 8, 2002 – Aggressive Driving – at least 6 other states have passed aggressive driving laws
 - ✓ Weaving between lanes
 - ✓ Tailgating
 - ✓ Blocking other drivers from passing

Washington State Police

- Established email address for citizens to use to alert WSP where aggressive drivers are endangering the roadways
- Aggressive Driving Apprehension Team (ADAT) – 40 unmarked/unconventional police vehicles equipped with mobile video cameras – makes 40% of aggressive driving arrest by WSP

- Part of Drivers Training curriculum
- Red-light cameras

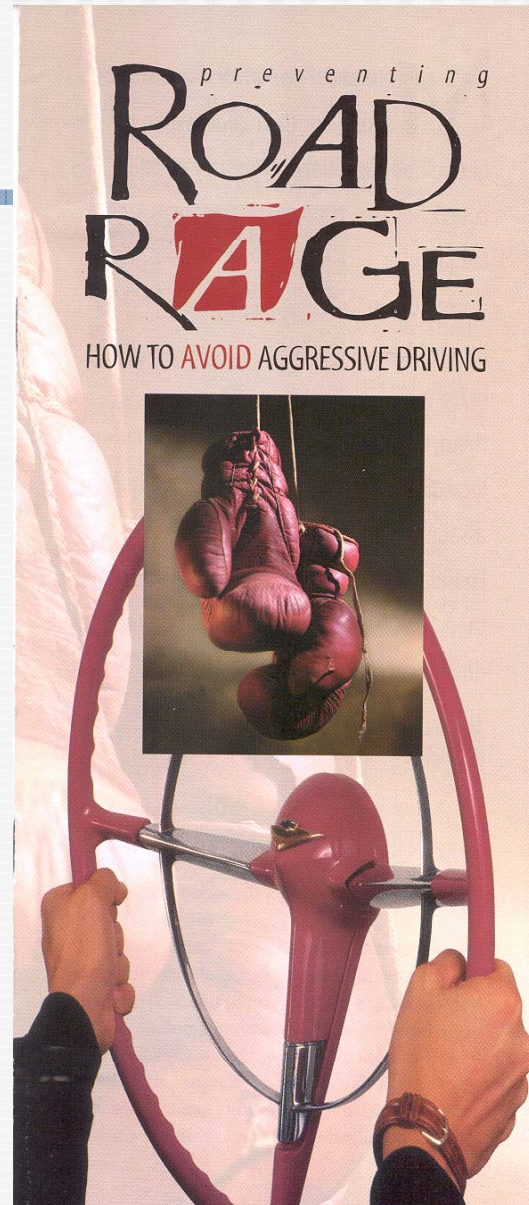


- Neighborhood Watch presentations
- "55 Alive"
- Road Rage bumper stickers



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- AAA Road Rage brochures





THANK YOU