

HOW TO AVOID AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS:

- Get out of their way and steer clear of them on the road.
- Stay relaxed. Remember that reaching your destination safely and calmly is your goal.
- Don't challenge them. Avoid eye contact. Ignore rude gestures and refuse to return them.
- Give them the benefit of the doubt. Not all aggressive driving behavior is intentional.
- Don't block the passing lane, especially if you are driving slower than most of the traffic. Move over to the right lane.
- Dial #77 on a cell phone to report aggressive drivers or call your local police when you can.

HOW TO AVOID BEING AN AGGRESSIVE DRIVER:

- Allow more travel time to get to your destination. It reduces stress dramatically.
- Come to a full stop at red lights and stop signs. Never run yellow lights.
- Let other drivers merge with you.
- Obey posted speed limits.
- Don't ever follow other drivers too closely.
- Resist temptation to teach someone "a lesson."
- Concentrate on driving – not on cell phones, stereo, passengers or other distractions.
- Remember that you can't control traffic – but you can control yourself, your driving, and your emotions.

EFFECTIVE METHODS TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM – AND ITS CAUSES

Police, government officials, trauma experts, and others in Maryland, Northern Virginia and Washington, DC have been concerned about aggressive drivers for years. In looking for solutions, they created the Smooth Operator Program:

- Today more than 80 law enforcement agencies coordinate efforts to target aggressive drivers, conducting four one-week enforcement "waves." Since 1997, over 1.1 million citations and warnings have been issued for aggressive driving.
- Enforcement waves coincide with advertising blitzes to inform the public, stigmatize the behavior, and shame aggressive drivers into respecting safety and the law.
- Other methods include development of high-technology law enforcement tools, and studies of using anger management courses to change behavior among convicted aggressive drivers.
- Research and evaluations are conducted yearly to study the problem and solutions.
- The program is guided by an impressive array of professionals who meet regularly and share information to better understand the triggers and ways of curbing the threat.



We're tough on Aggressive Drivers!

District of Columbia • Maryland • Virginia
www.smoothoperatorprogram.com

SPEEDING

**TAILGATING • UNSAFE LANE CHANGES
• RUNNING LIGHTS & SIGNS**



**COSTS
& KILLS!**



We're tough on Aggressive Drivers!

SMOOTH OPERATOR WORKS:

- To stop aggressive drivers.
- To reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities.
- To protect everyone on our roads.
- To make living, working, and playing safer for all of us.

For almost ten years, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC have partnered through the Smooth Operator Program to combat aggressive drivers. Law enforcement agencies, trauma experts, government officials and other professionals have worked together to bring about change and stigmatize aggressive driver behavior on our roads.

The Smooth Operator program is a public safety initiative providing solutions for the problem of aggressive driving.

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DO YOU EVER DRIVE AGGRESSIVELY?

- ⚡ **Drive too fast, over the posted speed limit?**
- ⚡ **Roll through red lights or stop signs?**
- ⚡ **Weave in and out of traffic, or make unsafe lane changes?**
- ⚡ **Tailgate other vehicles?**

These are the most dangerous aggressive driving behaviors. The fact is, most drivers drive this way at times. Anytime you hurry, and become selfish, bold or pushy in your vehicle, you stop respecting the rights and safety of other drivers and pedestrians.

STOP AGGRESSIVE DRIVING OR SMOOTH OPERATOR WILL STOP YOU!

WHAT AREA DRIVERS SAY:

- Aggressive drivers are the greatest threat people face on the road – ahead of drunk driving, large trucks, congestion, and other concerns.
- 44 percent of drivers say other threats pale in comparison to aggressive driving.
- Most drivers say they personally have seen aggressive driving so dangerous that it puts others on the road at risk.
- 55 percent say the problem is getting worse. Another 39 percent say the situation is no better.
- Speeding plays a big role. Excessive speed is involved in a third of all fatal crashes!

CONGESTION BREEDS AGGRESSION

Crowded roads take extra time, raise frustration, and reduce civility and good driving manners. This creates an environment that encourages conflict. Our roads are so crowded that fender-benders, potholes, rain – even sun glare – can cause chain reactions of problems. Add aggressive driving to the mix and you have a dangerous situation.

CAUSES OF AGGRESSIVE DRIVING:

- Our region has the third-worst traffic congestion in the country.
- Drivers in our area lose more hours to traffic delays than anywhere else in the country.
- Over the past 20 years, traffic on area roads has nearly doubled.

Crowded roads encourage aggressive driving. Fender-benders, potholes, rain and sun glare compound the problem and can cause chain reactions.

IT'S NOT ONLY ANGER

Impatience, hurrying, stress, irritation at something totally unrelated to driving – these can all lead to unsafe driving behavior. This endangers, infuriates, and antagonizes other drivers. When frustration and anger levels get high, concern for fellow motorists becomes low.

A CONTAGIOUS PROBLEM

Aggressive driving is highly contagious. When you watch another driver's offensive behavior on the road, or see them get away with violations of the law, it can make you angry and frustrated and convince you that you, too, can drive carelessly.



React to an aggressive driver and you become part of the problem. Unsafe behavior passes from car to car down the road.

When you drive aggressively with children in the vehicle, you teach them to drive like you do, even before they have a driver's license. Kids learn by example. They're always watching and learning.

AROUND LARGER VEHICLES

Aggressive driving around trucks and buses is dangerous. They have larger blind spots and are unable to see drivers that are following too close or speeding past them. Larger vehicles can not stop fast; and, in a crash, a truck or bus on a car is like a sledge hammer on a tin can. All drivers need to keep a safe distance from larger vehicles.