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A. M. Townley, Jr., BBA, MBA
Insurance Education Seminars

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When you're behind the wheel . . . IT PAYS TO FOLLOW AT A SAFE DISTANCE

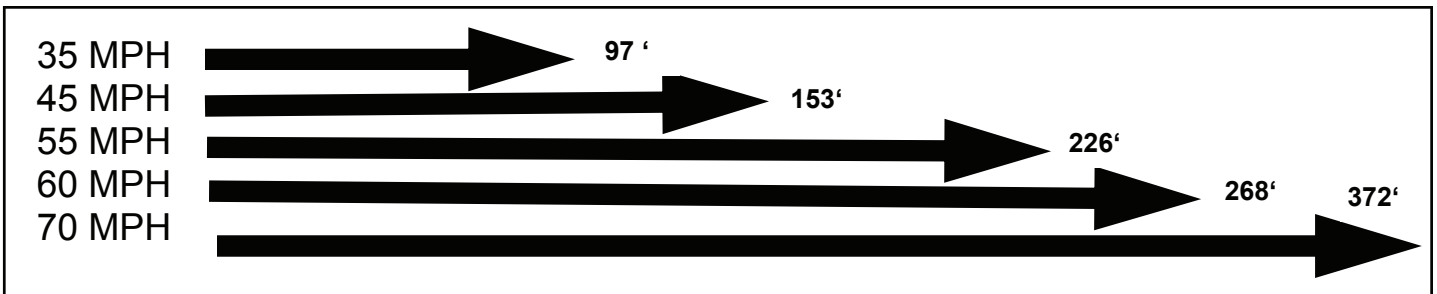
Of every 100 traffic collisions involving two vehicles about 30 are attributed to rear-end-collisions. These accidents not only are costly in terms of property damage but all too often they have tragic personal consequences for the drivers and passengers.

Virtually all such collisions need never happen. Why? Because they're due almost entirely to a dangerous driving practice . . . **tailgating**. Read on! Be an intelligent driver by learning and using the information on this page.

The chart below should give all drivers pause for thought about how far it takes to stop a car in an emergency situation. These average stopping distances are based on normal driving conditions. This means that even longer distances will be required if the road is wet, or if your tires have low tread or your brakes are not at full capacity.

Can You Stop In Time?

Average distance it takes to stop a car at various speeds



What is a Safe Following Distance?

There is a rule found in the State Driving Manual called "The Two Second Rule". It is a timed-interval method for following the vehicle in front of you. Here's how it works:

When the rear bumper of the vehicle ahead passes a fixed reference point, such as a telephone pole, a sign, or a tree, you count off 2 seconds . . . "one thousand one, one thousand two." If the front bumper of your vehicle reached the reference point before two seconds have elapsed, you're following too closely. If other hazards are present, such as rain, fog, or night driving then you should add about two extra seconds to your following distance for each hazard.

