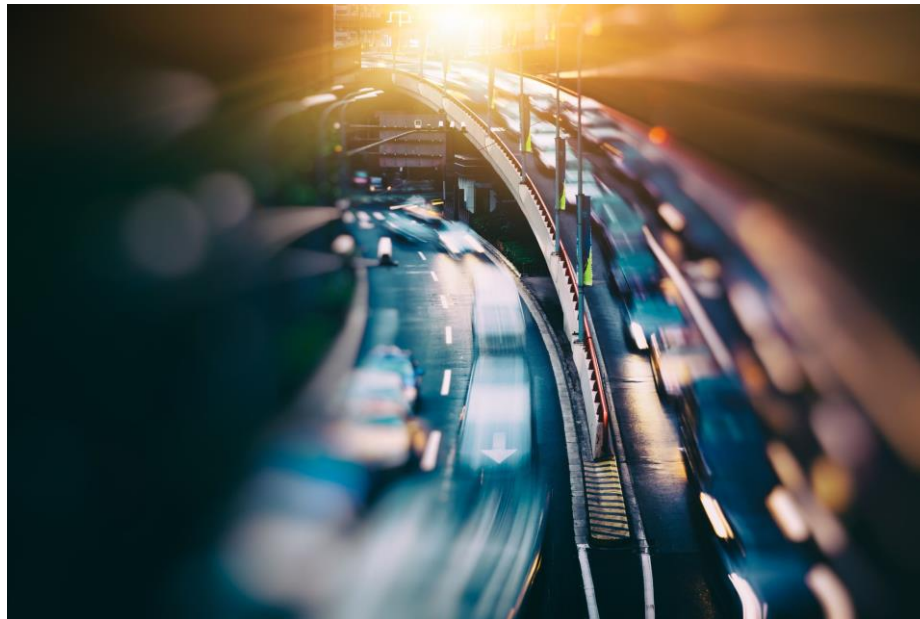




RISK CONTROL
& INSURANCE
SMARTER INSURANCE
FOR SMARTER BUSINESS.

Fleet Management and Auto Safety



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Objectives Today

- ▶ Driving Defensively
- ▶ Six Deadly Choices
- ▶ Scope of the Problem
- ▶ De-Escalating Aggressive Drivers Review
- ▶ Ways to Avoid Road Conflict

Collisions Cost Lives

▶ NSC- 2021 Preliminary Data

- ▶ 46,000 fatalities, 9% increase
 - CA- 4,161, 12% increase
 - NM- 470, 21% increase
- ▶ 11% increase in miles driven

▶ NSC- 2019

- ▶ Speeding- 26% of fatalities
- ▶ Distraction affected fatal crashes- 3,142, 10% increase
- ▶ Occupant restraints- 47% of fatalities unrestrained occupants

- Source-National Safety Council Injury Facts

Dying to Work

BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries 2020

Nationwide

- 4,764 Fatal Occupational Injuries
- 1,778 Fatal Transportation Incidents

California

- 463 Fatal Occupational Injuries
- 122 Transportation Related

New Mexico

- 37 Fatal Occupational Injuries
- 15 Transportation Related

What Can We Control?



Defensive Driving Definition:

Driving to save

Lives



Time



Money



despite the conditions around you and the actions of others.

Defensive Driving Habits

- ▶ Safe And Legal Driving Decisions
- ▶ Safe, Stress Free Personal Driving Space
- ▶ Driving Safely- Without Affecting Other Driver's Safety
- ▶ Common Sense, Courtesy And Cooperation
- ▶ Recognizing Risks And Conditions And Knowing How To Respond

Ergonomics

Carefully enter/exit vehicle

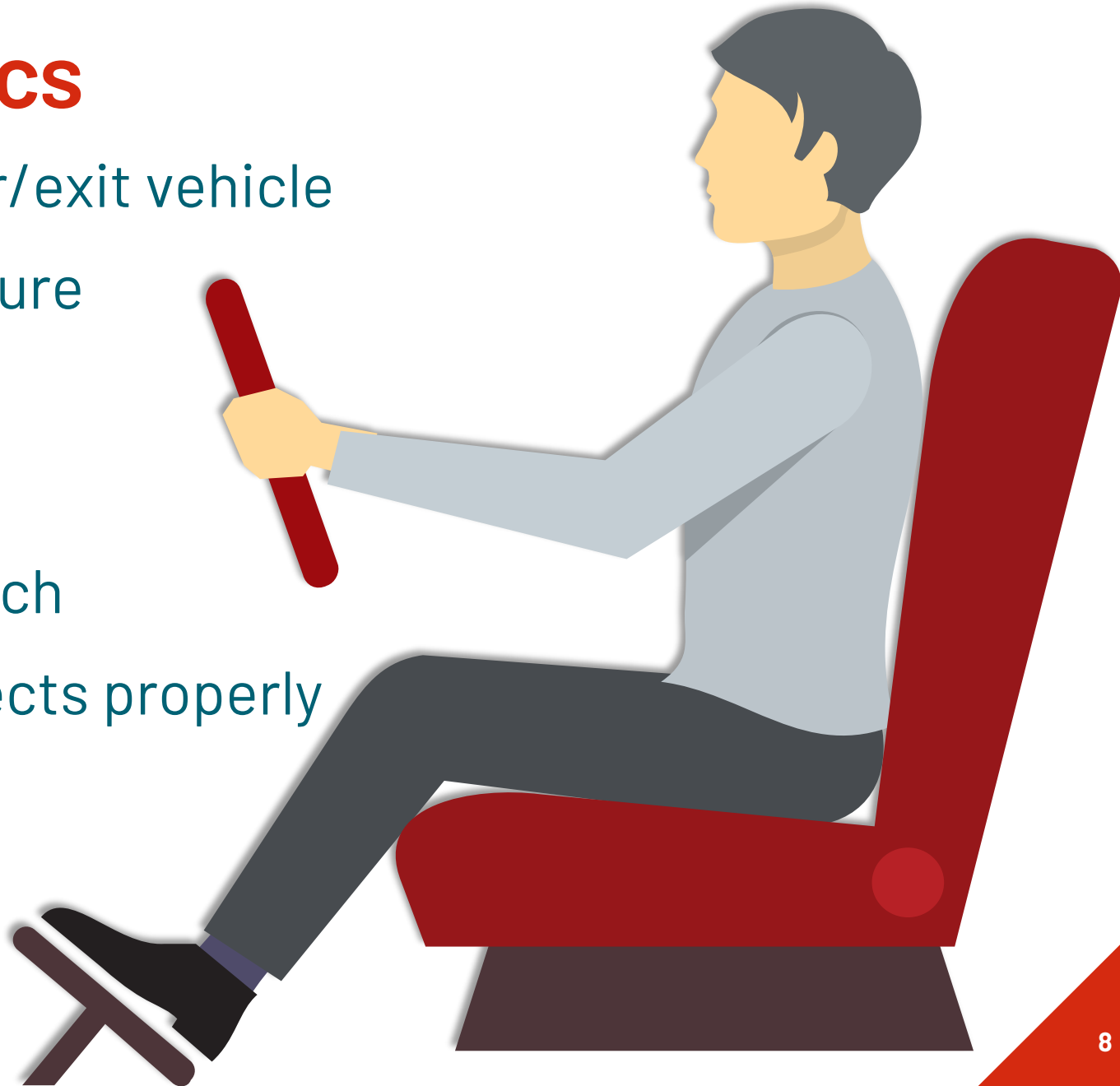
Use good posture

Adjust seat

Shift position

Walk and stretch

Lift heavy objects properly



Fleet Management

- ▶ Driver's Safety Policies
- ▶ Preventative Maintenance
- ▶ Driver's Training Programs
- ▶ Vehicle Replacement Cycles
- ▶ Vehicle Inspections: Pre-Trip and Post Trip
- ▶ Accident Investigation Tools

What Is Beyond Our Control?



Factors Beyond Our Control

- ▲ Weather
- ▲ Light
- ▲ Road Conditions
- ▲ Other Roadway Users
- ▲ Construction
- ▲ Traffic

The only thing we can control is our own behavior

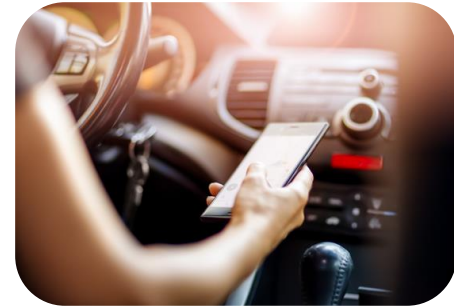
Six Deadly Choices



1. Speeding



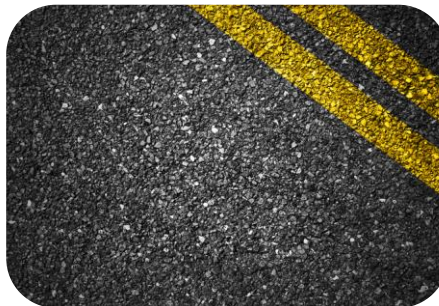
2. Following Too Closely



3. Distracted Driving



4. Turning Improperly



5. Driving Left of Center



6. Violating Right of Way

Road Rage Definition

- ▶ **Road Rage** is defined as aggressive or violent behavior stemming from a driver's uncontrolled anger at the actions of another motorist.

We Can All Relate – Are We Guilty Too?

I DONT HAVE ROAD RAGE
YOU'RE JUST AN IDIOT

AS A MATTER
OF FACT I DO
OWN THE ROAD



Statistics

- ▶ 78% of U.S. have drivers expressed significant anger, aggression or road rage – at least once in the past 30 days – while driving.
- ▶ 500% increase in reported cases of road rage over the last 10 years.
- ▶ 2019 – 446 fatal crashes resulting in 502 deaths linked to road rage.
- ▶ 2020 – 42 people a month on average were shot (killed or wounded) in road rage incidents.
- ▶ 2021 (May) – 353 road rage incidents with a gun with over half resulting in injury/death. Average – Someone shot every 18 hours.

Top Anger “Buttons”

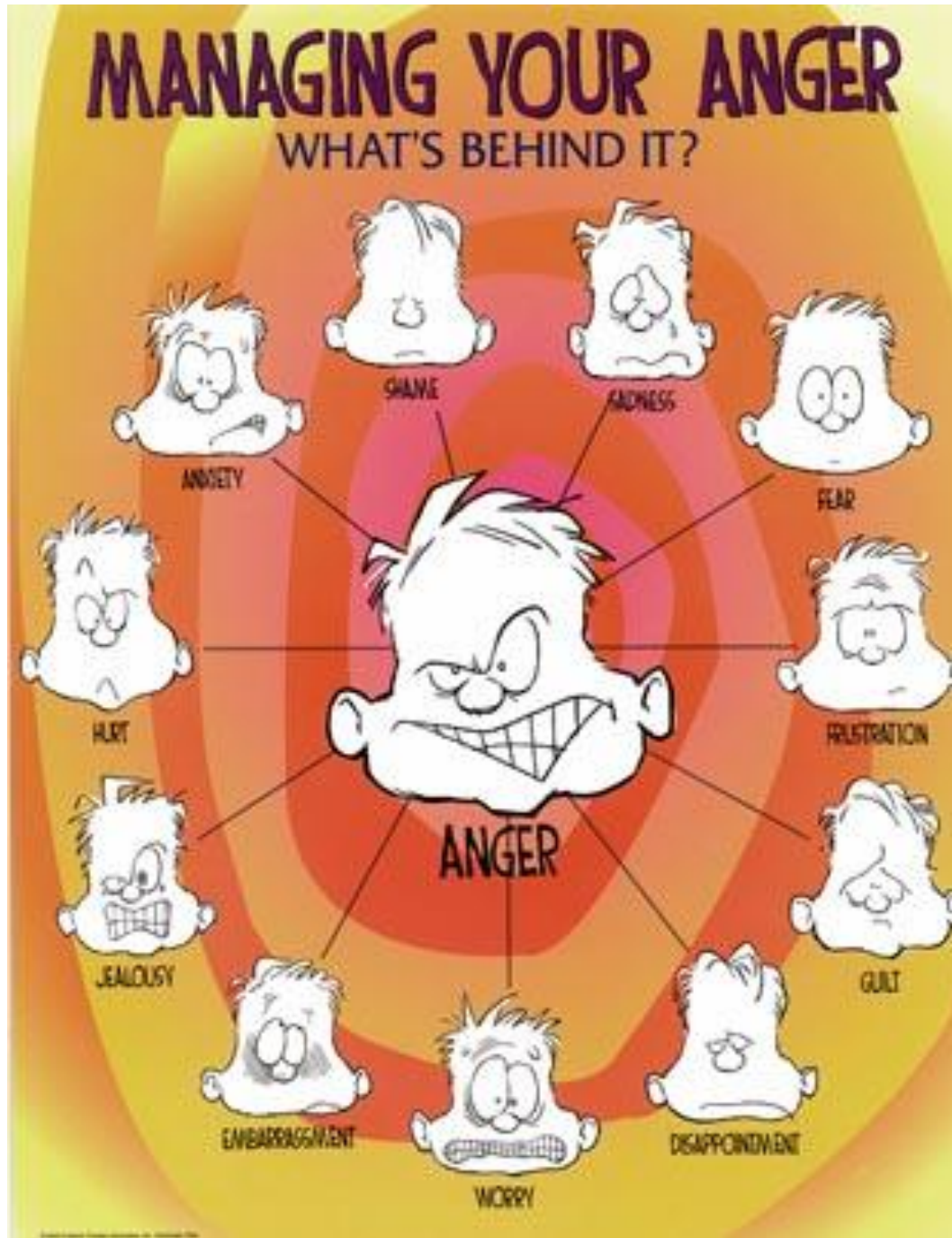


Distracted Driving

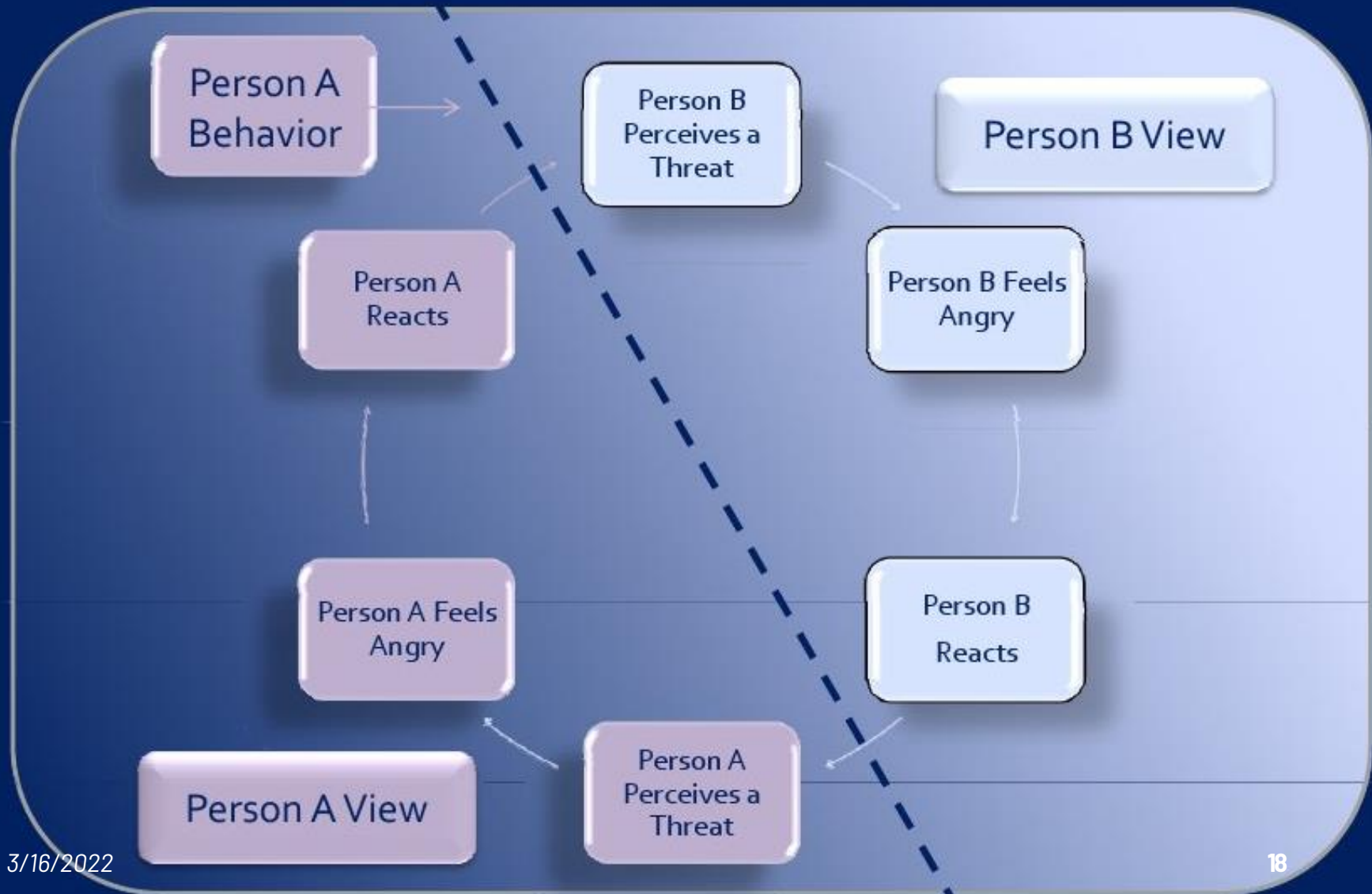
Tailgating

Cutting Off Other Drivers

Driving too Slow



Why Conflicts Escalate



Scope of the problem

- ▶ Road Rage is often associated with ***Intermittent Explosive Disorder (IED)*** – a behavioral disorder characterized by impulsive, explosive outbursts of anger and/or violence, often to the point of rage.
- ▶ This behavior is not premeditated and is defined by a disproportionate reaction to any provocation, **real or perceived**. (Psychology Today - 2019)

Key Points

- ▶ Primary causes of anger are fear and pain.
- ▶ The perception of a threat by one or both parties is a primary cause for conflict escalation.
- ▶ If emotion & frustration dominate the conflict – stress elevates, and self-control deteriorates.

De-escalation Process

- ▶ De-escalation is the process of lowering emotional behavior to prevent the escalation of conflicts into violent incidents.
- ▶ The goal is to calmly (and safely) communicate with an agitated person in order to understand, manage and resolve their concerns – ultimately, reducing the person's agitation and potential for aggression or violence.

The Obvious Problem?

How do we de-escalate an aggressive person in another vehicle – and who would want to?



**Who's the only person that can be
De-escalated?**



Your Role

Who is the most important person in the vehicle?

THE DRIVER

We can only control ourselves and our actions.

Ways to Mitigate or Avoid Road Rage

- ▶ Plan your travel time for work and appointments.
- ▶ Be Courteous:
 - ▶ Never tailgate.
 - ▶ Allow faster vehicles to pass.
 - ▶ Avoid sudden lane changes.
 - ▶ Always use turn signals.
 - ▶ Avoid honking if possible.
 - ▶ Avoid distracted driving.
 - ▶ Avoid stopping in lanes of traffic.



Ways to Mitigate or Avoid Road Rage

- ▶ Remember that De-escalation begins with you!
 - ▶ Your perception or interpretation of actions/words determines your reality.
 - ▶ Know your “triggers”.
 - ▶ Try (hard) to ignore words/gestures.
 - ▶ Don't challenge an aggressive driver by speeding up.
 - ▶ Give the other driver the benefit of the doubt – Maybe there's an emergency somewhere.
 - ▶ Try not to assume bad intent or a perceived injustice – This will reduce stress and increase patience.

Ways to Mitigate or Avoid Road Rage

▶ Safety – Safety – Safety

- ▶ If another driver targets you – Avoid the conflict as much as possible. *MAINTAIN SPACE – DON'T STOP TO ENGAGE!*
- ▶ Watch for threatening actions but avoid direct eye contact.
- ▶ If someone continues to follow you after several turns, proceed to your local law enforcement agency or remain in a well-lit public area – *DON'T GO HOME!*



References

- ▶ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
 - ▶ <https://www.nhtsa.gov>
- ▶ Every Town For Gun Safety
 - ▶ <https://www.everytown.org>
- ▶ The Zebra (Road Rage)
 - ▶ <https://www.thezebra.com/resources/research/road-rage-statistics/>





Questions



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Disclaimer

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