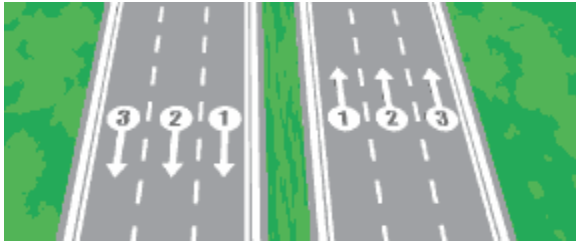


Driver Letter

A MONTHLY MESSAGE FOR DRIVERS
FROM THE [LOSS CONTROL DEPARTMENT OF THE HARTFORD](#)

August 2006



Changing and Choosing a Lane

Dear Driver:

Changing lanes includes:

- Changing from one lane to another
- Passing another vehicle
- Merging onto a roadway from an entrance ramp
- Entering the roadway from the curb or shoulder

When changing lanes you must check for possible hazards or vehicles in the lane you want to enter. This means you must take in the whole picture and check for traffic ahead, to the sides and behind your vehicle before you change lanes.

When changing lanes, be a defensive driver and in this order:

1. Communicate first and use your turn signals
2. Secondly keep your eyes moving and check your mirrors
3. Next check for blind spots
4. Once you have determined the lane you are moving into is safe and clear, change lanes
5. Lastly turn your signal off once you have completed your lane change

When changing lanes do you ask yourself was the lane change necessary? Did you make the right move? Which lane is correct? Are you a lane changer/jumper?

Most often you choose your lane based on traffic flow. Generally on a four lane highway you should travel in the outside (meaning right-hand) lane and use the inside (meaning extreme left) lane only when you need to pass another vehicle.

If there are three or more lanes on each side, you should consider moving to the center lane(s) for normal travel as the slowest traffic normally moves to the outside lane. The inside lane is a passing lane. In many state and local jurisdictions, large vehicles are barred from traveling in the fast or left lane.



Some states recently have instituted regulations, especially on four lane and interstate highways, stating that drivers may be cited for impeding traffic if you stay in the left lane and don't move to the right lane. The new regulations are to reduce aggressive driving and road rage which results many times when a driver even though traveling at the posted speed limit impedes traffic and prevent other drivers from passing.

Be a courteous and defensive driver when changing and choosing a lane.....

Make the Correct and Right Move!

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