

SafeDriver Monthly Newsletter

November 2022



Road Rage vs Aggressive Driving

Road rage incidents seem to be on the rise with a surprising number ending in gunfire. In October, two drivers in Florida got into a heated road rage incident and started shooting at each other. The result was that both of their daughters, one five years old and the other 14, who were sitting in the back seat were wounded. The five-year-old was hit in the leg, while the 14-year-old suffered a collapsed lung. Both fathers were jailed.

It's important to know how to recognize a road rage situation and how to deal with it if you should encounter one. A lot of people confuse aggressive driving with road rage. While one may lead to another, they aren't the same thing.

Aggressive drivers take foolish chances by driving too fast, tailgating, lane-weaving, and running red lights. While certainly dangerous, aggressive driving isn't road rage. Road rage occurs when a driver is pushed beyond a mental limit and wants to harm another driver.



Psychologists have named this "Intermittent Explosive Disorder" or "IED". IED is a type of temporary insanity in which a driver loses the ability to think rationally and sets out to hurt or even kill another driver for some perceived insult or slight.

An aggressive driver can push a normally safe, law-abiding driver over that psychological edge to the point where the normally safe driver gets tired of being taken advantage of and sets out to punish the other driver by driving him off the road, crashing into his car, or reaching for a gun.

It's important to remember when dealing with either an aggressive driver or a road rage incident, the safest thing to do is to remove yourself from the situation. If that means temporarily pulling off the road, that's safer and will save you more time than trying to retaliate against an irrational driver. When dealing with an angry driver, never try to confront the other driver. Never open your window or get out of your vehicle. If the road rager tries to follow you, call 911 and do whatever it takes to safely stay away from him.



Holiday Travel

It's that time of year again when Americans will be hitting the road to visit family and friends for the holidays. With more people vaccinated and the dangers of the pandemic seeming to be reduced, this Thanksgiving will probably see a lot more traffic than we have seen in recent years, as more people hit the road to reconnect with family who they haven't seen in some time.

Unfortunately, Thanksgiving, as the most heavily traveled weekend of the year, is also one of the deadliest holidays of the year.

The heaviest travel periods over the Thanksgiving weekend will be on Wednesday evening and Sunday evening. On Wednesday people will wait until they get off work and then they will all try to hit the roads at the same time, creating massive traffic jams in many cities. On Sunday, many will wait until after the last football game and, drowsy with turkey and beer, they will hit the roads.

The safest time to travel, if you can arrange the time off, is to leave before Wednesday and return on Saturday. Make sure you've had plenty of rest and give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination. Watch for and avoid aggressive drivers. Drive safe and have a happy holiday.

