

SAFETYFIRST

INFORMATION DEDICATED TO DRIVER SAFETY



AHEAD OF
THE CURVE



Safety Management
Services Company, 2015

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Be Safe Out There



Cottingham & Butler
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Rushing

On the Road

Making up time on the road when you are late is not a good idea. This will result in aggressive driving maneuvers such as: speeding, sudden and multiple lane changes, cutting off other drivers, tailgating, and driving on private property or off the road to get around obstacles or slower drivers. These actions increase your risk of being involved in a crash and place other motorists in danger.

Often times rushing doesn't make up for lost time. In many cities, traffic lights are "timed" on city streets. For example, in theory, if a street is timed at 45 mph, and you start from a new green light, promptly accelerate to 45 mph and hold that speed, provided you have no traffic in front of you, you would hit every succeeding green light for as long as the street remains "set" at 45 mph. This also means that if you drive faster than 45 mph, you will encounter almost every red light that is possible on that street. Therefore it is almost impossible to make up time on city streets -- you might make it through one light, but after that you are going to hit a lot of red lights.

A better plan is to allow yourself an early start so you can get to your destination without having to rush. When an early start is not possible, and you are unavoidably late, or traffic is extraordinarily congested, it is better to relax and recognize that getting impatient and making driving errors, that may potentially cause you to have a collision, won't really save you any time. Late is better than not arriving at your destination at all.

Off the Road

Haste makes waste. If you think about it, you can probably think of a time that you have cut corners or were in a hurry which resulted in an injury or damaged property. Practice patience.

Before taking on any task, even as simple as climbing down from the tractor or off of a trailer, consider the following questions in relation to rushing:

- Am I taking a shortcut?
- Am I being overconfident?
- Am I ignoring proper safety procedures?
- Am I using the right tool for the job?
- Am I practicing good housekeeping and/or have I cleared a path?

Again, practicing patience can prevent a crash or injury.