



How to Share the Road with Our Horse & Buggy Community Neighbours

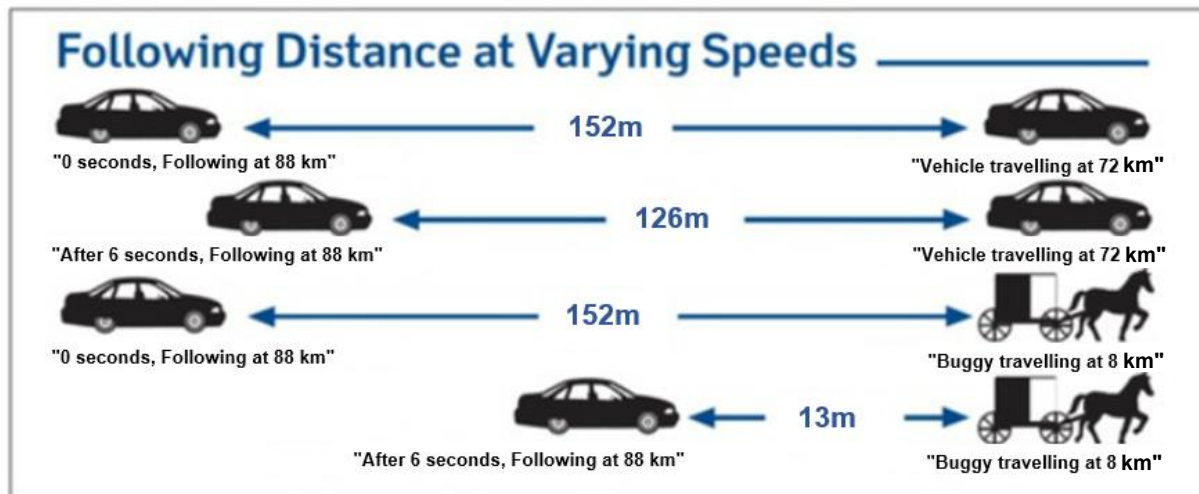
Preventing Car-Buggy Crashes and Injuries

Rural roads are often narrower or may vary in width more than city streets. A narrow road give you less room to maneuver and can be especially dangerous when passing horse-drawn vehicles. A loose gravel or grass berm area can also be hazardous. Open ditches along rural roads are often deep and close to the road.

Seemingly open roadways may have sharp dips or unexpected turns. In cold weather, a road shaded by trees or buildings may be icy because then sun has not shone on that part of the roadway. Blind corners created by wooded areas, corn fields or other tall crops are also hazardous.



Slow Moving Vehicles and Speed



Speed differential and knowing **closure time** is a safety factor that could save lives. **Closure time** is the time a driver has to recognize and respond when coming upon other vehicles. Slow moving vehicles, including horse-drawn buggies and farm equipment, fall into this category.

Because it may be difficult for motorized vehicle drivers to judge the speed at which they will close in on the horse-drawn buggy, drivers should slow down immediately if you see a horse-drawn buggy ahead.

At Stop Signs and Signals

When stopped at a stop sign or light, remember to stay back since buggies often roll back a few feet after coming to a complete stop. An easy way to measure the distance is to stop your vehicle far enough back so that you can see where the rear wheels of the buggy touch the road. If you have a larger vehicle, like an SUV or van, allow more of a cushion.

Pass with Caution



Horse-drawn buggies, which are dark in color and may be difficult to spot, travel at a rate of 8 to 13 kilometers/hour; drastically slower than motorized vehicles. Remember these rules when passing a horse-drawn buggy:

- Passing should be done only when it is safe and legal to do so in a passing zone.
- Never pass on a hill or curve where oncoming traffic may put everyone at-risk; including the buggy occupants.
- Allow ample room to pass. Be aware of your surroundings and road conditions. Loose rocks, fog, gravel, snow, wet pavement, and dirt may make passing hazardous.
- Be patient. Gunning your vehicle, passing too closely or beeping your horn may spook the horse and cause it to swerve into your lane.
- Be watchful of vehicles behind you that may also try to pass.
- Do not assume that the horse-drawn buggy operator can see you. Be cautious of potential left-hand turns that could put the horse-drawn buggy directly in your path of travel.

Buggies and horse-drawn equipment



- Normal speeds for horse-drawn buggies range between **8 and 13 kilometers per hour**. Horse-drawn vehicles may travel even slower when pulling large farm equipment or when crossing intersections.
- Reflective **slow-moving vehicle signs**, are mounted to the back of farm equipment and animal-drawn buggies to warn motorists of their slow traveling speeds.
- The potential for restricted vision for horse-drawn vehicle drivers should also be considered. When pulling large loads of hay or other equipment, horse-drawn vehicle drivers may not be able to see cars behind them
- Some buggies may be equipped with a light on the front and/or back for travelling in darkness



Passing horse-drawn vehicles

- Automobile drivers should be extremely cautious when passing buggies and horse-drawn equipment. Motorists should only pass when legal and safe. Before passing, anticipate any left hand turns into fields and driveways, and when passing, allow plenty of room. Horses are unpredictable and, passing cars may frighten even the most road safe of horses.
- Avoid waving and motioning at buggy operators as to not spook the horse when travelling.

Travelling behind horse-drawn vehicles

- When approaching a stop sign or traffic light, motorists should leave extra space – at least 10 (2.4m) to 12 feet (3.7m) – between their car and the horse-drawn equipment stopped in front of them. Buggies may back up a few feet after coming to a complete stop.
- While travelling behind moving horse-drawn vehicles, motorists should be aware of their closure time. **Closure time** is the time a driver has to recognize and respond when coming upon other vehicles. Drivers have much less time and distance to react to slow-moving vehicles than other automobiles.

This is the law

[Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8 S. 167](#)

Approaching ridden or driven horses, etc.

167 Every person having the control or charge of a motor vehicle or motor assisted bicycle on a highway, when approaching a horse or other animal that is drawing a vehicle or being driven, led or ridden, shall operate, manage and control the motor vehicle or motor assisted bicycle so as to exercise every reasonable precaution to prevent the frightening of the horse or other animal and to ensure the safety and protection of any person driving, leading or riding upon the horse or other animal or being in any vehicle drawn by the horse or other animal. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 167.



***Take Care and Share the Road with Our Horse & Buggy
Community Neighbours***