

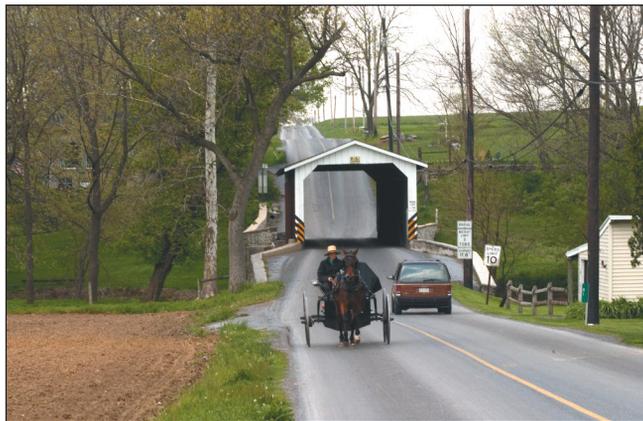


Slow Down and Enjoy the Ride

While rural roads may offer beautiful scenery and historic farmhouses, they can also present unfamiliar hazards to motorists.

In addition to slow-moving vehicles, drivers should be alert to these other potential hazards when driving along rural roads.

- Open ditches are often deep and close to the road.
- Open roadways may have sharp dips or unexpected turns.
- In winter, a road shaded by trees or buildings may be icy.
- Hazardous blind spots are created by wooded areas, cornfields or other tall crops.



Be Patient and Courteous Please Share the Road

This publication was developed by the Lancaster Highway Safety Council, Center for Traffic Safety and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Photos were provided by Commonwealth Media Services.



Safe Driving in

Amish Country





Driving through rural areas of Pennsylvania, among the sites you will see are cornfields, cows and barns.

The slow-moving vehicle sign is applied to farm machinery, construction equipment and animal-drawn vehicles. If you come upon a vehicle displaying the sign, you should slow down and use caution since those vehicles are often moving slower than 25 miles per hour.

Of particular concern in rural areas are horse-drawn buggies, which are dark in color and difficult to spot. They also tend to travel slower than 8 miles per hour.

In addition to being hard to see and slow-moving, horses can be unpredictable and easily spooked. Instead of blowing your horn in frustration, you should slow down when approaching and passing, allowing plenty of room to pass where it is safe and legal.

Often drivers of horse-drawn vehicles may not be able to see you behind them. Following too closely is especially dangerous, as it puts yourself as well as the occupants of the horse-drawn vehicle in a difficult situation.

You should leave a cushion of safety between you and the horse-drawn vehicle, maintaining a measurable distance from the front of your car to the rear of the buggy. This cushion gives you a chance to react if a dangerous situation arises.

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 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, you need to allow more of a cushion.

Since a horse-drawn buggy moves at a slow speed, it only takes seconds to overtake a buggy. Remember to always allow a cushion of safety.

(see diagram below)



Following Distance at Varying Speeds

