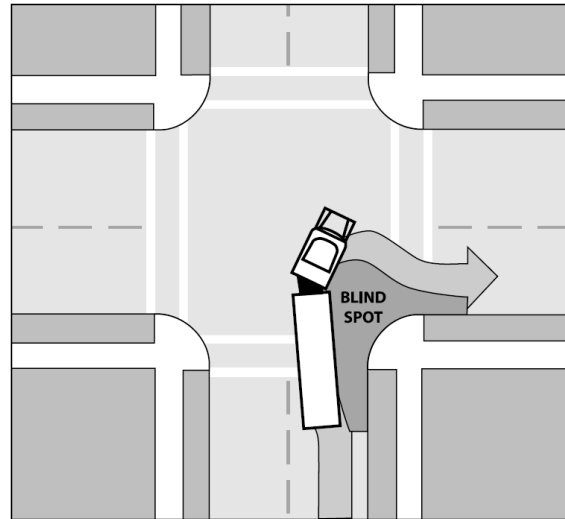


Bicyclists—How to avoid being hit by a turning truck

- Be aware that trucks swing to the left to prepare for a right turn.
- Be aware that the preparation for a right turn may take the truck partly or completely into the left lane.
- Don't enter the BLIND SPOT on the right side of the truck.
- Stay behind the truck and give it room.

When a large vehicle makes a turn at a street corner, the long distance between front and rear wheels means that the rear wheels will "off-track" and run closer to the curb than the front of the truck does.



Because of this, trucks will swing left in preparation for a right turn.

When the truck slows and swings left you might be tempted to enter the BLIND SPOT to the right side of the truck. Don't! This is *very* dangerous.

If the truck is stopped at an intersection, the driver may have started to swing left in preparation for a right turn. So NEVER filter up alongside stopped trucks at intersections.

A skilled truck driver knows just how the wheels must track in order to make a safe turn with the rear wheels just clearing the curb at the corner.

If you are in the BLIND SPOT you will be squeezed between the rear of the truck and the curb with nowhere to go. If you are knocked over by the curb or caught by the moving parts along the side of the truck you can be crushed almost instantly.

If you are in the BLIND SPOT, the driver will have no idea this is happening to you.

This is how two recently bicycle fatalities have happened in Missouri.

On Missouri's narrow roads, trucks must move far to the left to prepare for a right turn. So what appears to you to be a truck moving into the left lane is oftentimes a preparation for a right turn by the truck.

Do NOT move to the side of a truck in this situation!

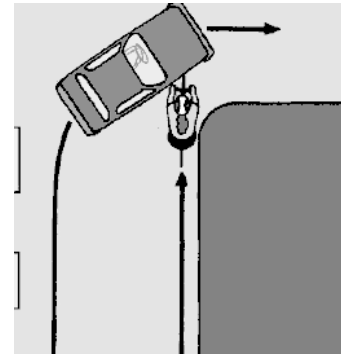


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Motorists—Avoid a common car/bicycle collision

One of the most common bicycle-automobile collisions is the "right hook"--when a motor vehicle passes the bicyclist on the left and then, underestimating the speed of the bicyclist, immediately turns right into a street or driveway.



How to avoid it? The motorist should slow down and wait behind the bicyclist.

At intersections you are not going much, if any, faster than a bicyclist.

The Missouri Driver's Guide says:

If you are following a bicyclist and need to make a right turn, you must yield to the cyclist. It is often safer to slow down and remain behind the cyclist until you are able to turn.

How can bicyclists avoid this scenario:

- Don't hug the curb.
- Ride at least 3-4 feet out from the curb or in the middle of the lane if it is a dual straight-through/right-turn lane.
- Don't ride the sidewalk.
- Watch motorists approaching from the rear in your mirror.

Note on the responsibilities of heavy truck drivers and trucking companies in the situations:
Today in the U.S. heavy trucks have huge blind spots. And yet modern, inexpensive video systems can solve the problem completely.

As with many issues with roadway safety, there are precautions to be taken by all road users. But ultimate responsibility for this situation must be taken by trucking companies and drivers to design and use trucks that allow drivers to see what they are driving over.

Right hook graphic courtesy "Street Smarts" by John Allen.



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