

**\*\*For PSC Insiders Circle Members only\*\***

\$3.97 USD

# Friday Safety Brief®



## **Pandemonium** (and other sinister driving behaviors)

So, from the title, you see what you're up against. Well, it might not be quite that bad, but it seems like it with today's driving. Whether it's light, moderate or heavy traffic; big cities, small towns, open highways or the grocery store parking lot, there's always someone who is in a real hurry, angry as %\$#@, doesn't realize their fate is now in someone else's hands or doesn't know the consequences. Fast lane changes, going around everyone, trying to get ahead – looks like some people have been watching too many cartoons with a car that can actually “snake” between everyone else. We wonder where and how some people got their driver training.

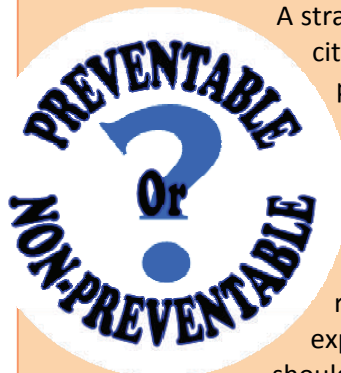
Yes, we could go on and on, adding cell phones, texting and every other distraction to the list of already sinister driving behavior. But the real fact is that you can almost ALWAYS “opt out” and avoid the commotion. Yes, even in heavy traffic. You've probably heard that people are either “acting” or “reacting”. It's difficult to categorize people as either an “actor” or “reactor” because most of us experience both, depending upon the circumstances, but some people “react” more and other people “act” more. Regardless, you're always going to be driving in the presence of people who are reacting to a succession of other people's actions and reactions.

It's really very simple. When you're driving, never be a “reactor”. Be ready to slow down in tight situations. Too many people refuse to slow down, opting instead to “drive around” anything in their way without ever varying their speed. That's one of the most dangerous habits a driver can have, and, you almost always have several other options.

And then there is always “the odds”. You can cut your odds of being involved in any crash to a bare minimum. The fewer times you commit driving errors or react to others, the more you reduce your odds.

Most of us are offended when someone tailgates or moves directly in front of us, in order to get ahead, or one of many other dangerous maneuvers. In fact, we've probably all been guilty of wanting to punish that errant driver at one time or another. A REAL pro knows how to handle that emotion, should it unexpectedly pop up at the wrong time. They simply “opt out” and never “react”. Have you ever met (or know) a very congenial person and later saw them drive in traffic as a “reactor”? It happens! Not all bad drivers are difficult people to get along with. But, in traffic, they might very well be dangerous to themselves and everyone else.

So, regardless of the driving out there, YOU can reduce your odds of a crash (or being involved) enormously and you can relax. Simply drive at the speeds dictated by the conditions, and, opt out of any reactions to dangerous driving around you. Pretty soon you'll be far away from all those who are competing to be ahead and, once again, you've reduced your odds.☘



A straight truck driven by Mike Jones was traveling on a three-lane, one-way road through the city. Portions of the right lane were being repaired, so Mike stayed in the left lane, proceeding with caution at a slow speed. Meanwhile, the driver of another vehicle in the center lane, upon seeing construction ahead, suddenly accelerated into the left lane, attempting to make it past the slower moving truck. However, the vehicle sideswiped the right front bumper of Mike's truck. PREVENTABLE OR NON-PREVENTABLE? This accident was classified as “preventable.” Mike stated that anticipating the other driver's impulsive maneuver in time to avoid a collision was impossible. However, the accident review committee disagreed, stating that he should have sized up the situation and expected that the other driver might either stop or veer into his lane. In other words, Mike should have been prepared to yield.