

# Crime Prevention Newsletter

Fort Worth, Texas

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## Road Rage

"Road Rage" is commonly defined as a societal condition where motorists lose their temper in reaction to a traffic disturbance.



Road rage results in unsafe driving, property damage, personal injury, and in some cases death.

**Do you fit the profile of an aggressive driver?** People with aggressive behaviors cross all race, age, socioeconomic and gender lines. People who are characteristically cynical, rude, angry or aggressive are prone to get angry more often. Mild-mannered people can also display aggression behind the wheel.

Experts say aggressive driving behaviors are triggered by a variety of stimuli. Some are provoked by the actions of another driver; others are set off by roadway congestion. But, most are caused by the drivers' own moods and reactions when they get behind the wheel.

The U.S. Department of Transportation advised that approximately 250,000 people have been killed and 20 million motorists injured in traffic crashes between 1990 and 1996, estimating that two-thirds of the fatalities are partially from aggressive driving.

### Tips to reduce your chances of becoming a road rage victim:

--**Don't take traffic problems personally.** Traffic is not an organized conspiracy to keep you from getting to your destination.

--**Avoid the passing lane.** Aggressive and angry drivers often use this lane. Get in and out as soon as possible.

--**Avoid eye contact.** Avoid making direct eye contact with angry or aggressive drivers.

-- **Avoid excessive use of your high beam headlights.**

--**Minimize lane changes and avoid cutting in front of other drivers.** Plan any lane changes in advance and always signal first. Never cut

another driver off. When cut off by another driver, slow down and give the driver room. Never pass on the right.

--**Seek safe havens.** If followed by an aggressive driver, quickly seek refuge in an area heavily populated and immediately request some assistance. Never exit your vehicle or confront the other driver.



--**Report any incidents of road rage.** Report all aggressive or angry drivers to the police. If possible, record descriptions of the suspect, their vehicle and license plate number. Reports involving the same driver and/or vehicle can allow police to establish patterns and effect arrests. Never pursue an aggressive driver or create a hazard to obtain information.

--Road rage behavior can lead to prosecution under multiple offenses, e.g., Assault, Manslaughter, Reckless Driving, Recklessness, and Criminally Negligent Homicide. ALWAYS DRIVE SAFELY and DEFENSIVELY.



Report crimes, trespassers and suspicious activities to the ROCC at [800-832-5452](tel:800-832-5452).