

GE Appliance Cargo Van Drivers

For those that drive as part of their jobs, the risks of injury and possibly death are greater than those who drive recreationally. As the more one drives, the more chances there are for a crash to occur. On average, 90 people died every day while 1 person was injured every 16 minutes in traffic crashes in 2014. This cost is felt by our society through the loss of life and productivity. The financial cost is approximately \$277 billion each year in the United States alone. This amounts to about 24 million vehicles damaged, 3.9 million people injured, and around 30,000 people killed in an activity that 214 million licensed drivers take part in each and every day. However, daunting though it seems, there is a simple solution: educating drivers to be SAFER and more aware.

Motorists who drive more often than others are statistically increasing their chances of being involved in a collision that may lead to injury, serious injury, or even death. Most motorists don't realize that the incident itself does not end the emotional and physical impact of that crash. One crash can ripple outward from the point of impact and may affect those around you in unintended ways such as wage loss and loss of household or work productivity. One crash related injury can cost a surviving victim an average of \$4,546 whereas multiple or severe injuries can cost upwards of \$385,958. The monetary impacts of crash may be compounded by permanent, physical injuries or disabilities that result from the incident.

GE Appliance has made a commitment to provide its drivers with the information and training necessary to promote safety on our roadways. To this end, GE Appliance Drivers in larger vehicles (Large Trucks and Vans) should be extra cautious as crashes for such vehicles are usually rear-end collisions. In fact, throughout the nation, crashes involving larger vehicles are 3-times more likely to be a rear-end collision. Additionally, large vehicles are more likely to include multiple vehicles than are crashes that only include passenger vehicles. It isn't simply being struck by another vehicle that must be taken into account as over half of all collisions where a large vehicle is striking another vehicle occurs with the front of the large vehicle.

The cause of these collisions can be that of the large vehicle or that of the other vehicle depending on the circumstance; the ultimate determination of if the cause is left to either Law Enforcement or Insurance Providers. It is estimated that 99% of traffic crashes are driver error. Our goal here is simply to provide you with the tools necessary to acknowledge and avoid these situations.

For large vehicles, spatial awareness is key in preventing collisions. A driver must be aware of the size and shape of the vehicle and take this into account when changing lanes, braking, and turning. When changing lanes, a large vehicle driver's view is less than that of a passenger vehicle as a result of the very shape and size of their own vehicle. Cargo Vans are notorious for

having large blind spots. Drivers of these vehicles must be constantly vigilant in scanning the area around their vehicles using their mirrors as best as possible.

By constantly scanning the area around one's vehicle, a GE Appliance Driver is more likely to preempt a situation before it becomes an incident. This could be done by visually staying aware of other motorists around the vehicle; especially those directly in front of and behind the vehicle. Since larger vehicles have longer stopping distances, it is recommended that following distances are increased to a minimum of 5 or 6 seconds to ensure there is ample stopping distance in ideal conditions.

At the end of the day it is every motorists' responsibility to ensure our roadways are safe and secure. However, through civic responsibility, we should strive to be examples of being a safe motorist. Becoming a statistic that could deter future motorists from making the same mistakes is costly. This is the essence of Defensive Driving.

For your sake, the sake of your family and friends, and for the sake of GE Appliance who counts on you to be the best you can be every day, please practice safe driving behavior behind the wheel.

Resources:

1. DOT HS 812013 The Economic and Societal Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes (2010)
2. DOT HS 812263 Summary of Motor Vehicle Crashes (2014)
3. DOT HS 808 425 The Economic Cost of Motor Vehicle Crashes (1994)
4. THE RELATIVE FREQUENCY OF UNSAFE DRIVING ACTS IN SERIOUS TRAFFIC CRASHES (2001)