

# STOP TAILGATING

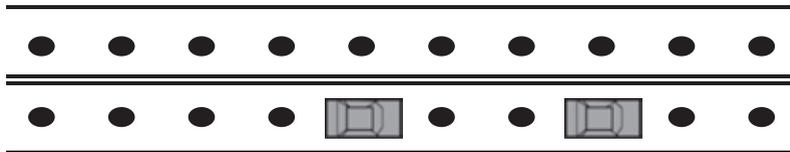


**BESAFE - BACK OFF**

One of the most common poor driving habits we encounter on our roads is inadequate following distance. In Wright County, nearly 80% of the crashes at intersections on Highway 55 are rear-end collisions. Most rear-end crashes are caused by driver inattention and following other vehicles too closely. Tailgating is very dangerous.

To avoid rear-end crashes, traffic safety experts recommend you leave at least a three-second following distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. When driving in snow, rain, or fog, you must increase your following distance to more than three-seconds.

A project designed to assist drivers in identifying safe following distances under “normal driving conditions” is taking place along Highway 55 in Wright County between Buffalo and Rockford. The project includes “dots” painted on the road, and signs directing drivers to keep at least two dots between them and the car ahead of them, when ideal driving conditions exist. Additional space should be added when conditions are less than ideal.



### Tips for Determining a Safe Following Distance

- When the back-end of a vehicle ahead passes a stationary object such as a sign along the road, count how long it takes to pass the same object – “one - Minnesota, two - Minnesota, three - Minnesota ...”
- There should be a minimum three-second count to pass the same object.

Maintaining a proper following distance is more than just being a polite driver. **It's the law!** So back-off the cars in front of you, keep your eyes on the road and get to where you are going safely. Concentrate on driving.

#### Project Partners:

- Minnesota Departments of Public Safety and Transportation
- Safe Communities of Wright County
- Wright County Highway Department
- AND YOU!

For more information go to  
[www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/tailgating](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/tailgating)

**TOWARD  
ZERO  
DEATHS**