

ROAD SAFETY TEACHER GUIDE: All About SAM and SMVs



LESSON PLAN

- Show video lesson
- Discuss real life encounters with slow moving vehicles
- Review questions from video

KEY MESSAGE

- Find a slow moving vehicle?
Slow down.
Assess your surroundings.
Move with caution.

MATERIALS

- All-inclusive video lesson from findmedriving.com/driversed

TIME

- Video run-time of 6 minutes; each section ends with a question to allow instructor to pause video for classroom discussion during, or after, viewing lesson
- 15-30 minutes based on discussion

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Following this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define and identify a slow moving vehicle
- Understand how to meet a slow moving vehicle
- Understand how to follow and pass a slow moving vehicle
- Identify hazards that will impact the operation of a slow moving vehicle

BACKGROUND

Crashes on rural roads are growing in number and intensity nationwide. The Governors Highway Safety Association 2022 study reports almost half of all U.S. fatal crashes occur on rural roads, though only 19% of the U.S. population lives in rural areas. Frequently the crashes involve slow moving vehicles— primarily large equipment used for farming and road maintenance, plus horse and buggies for transportation. Crash data revealed that most crashes involving slow moving vehicles were rear-end crashes where the passenger vehicle driver was not fully cognizant of the nature of slow moving vehicles, was not paying attention, or was driving at excessive speed. The crashes occur most frequently from March to November when farms are most active. Surprisingly, the number of crashes was highest during daylight hours and in clear weather.

The 2021-2025 Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan highlights the importance of safety for rural communities and farm equipment on the roadway, and identifies outreach to increase recognition of rural safety concerns as a measure to prevent rural crashes.

This lesson plan has been developed by the Maryland Soybean Board (MSB) through a grant from the Maryland Highway Safety Office. MSB is a nonprofit organization that initiated the “Find Me Driving” road safety campaign to decrease crashes and promote safe driving when encountering slow moving vehicles. Expanding education for both drivers of slow moving vehicles and drivers of passenger vehicles was identified as the primary solution to reducing fatalities and property damages caused by rural road crashes.

Note: Crash research can be found at: findmedriving.com/resources





DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES FROM VIDEO CONTENT

- Did you know that the crash rate is double for rural roads compared to an urban road? The risk of dying in a rural crash is even higher. Who do you think is at greatest risk? Young adults. People under the age of 25 die in rural road crashes more than any other age group.
- Assess your surroundings and look for hazards. Wide vehicles have to cross the yellow line to avoid mailboxes, guard rails, road signs, utility poles or tree limbs. Look for intersections where SMVs might turn. The sheer size of farm equipment often requires wide turns, causing them to cross the yellow line.
- Move with caution. Watch for oncoming traffic and a clear lane, plus look for hazards a SMV may have to avoid. Never pass when curves or hills may block your view of oncoming vehicles, or within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad crossing, bridge or tunnel.
- Once you pass, don't slow suddenly in front of the SMV. These are often big and heavy, and can't stop quickly. Make sure you see the vehicle in your rear-view mirror before returning to your travel lane.
- When you find a slow moving vehicle on the road, think of SAM:
Slow down **A**ssess your surroundings **M**ove with caution

QUESTIONS IN VIDEO LESSON

- Which of these is a slow moving vehicle?
A. Tractor
B. Horse & buggy
C. Combine
D. Road paver
E. All of the above
- What is the maximum speed of a vehicle that is designated as a slow moving vehicle?
A. 20 mph
B. **25 mph**
C. 30 mph
D. 35 mph
- Which one of these is NOT a hazard to avoid for a slow moving vehicle?
A. Mailboxes
B. Road signs
C. **Billboards**
D. Guard rails
- When is it okay to pass where there is a double yellow line?
A. When there is a clear lane
B. When a slow moving vehicle driver waves for me to pass
C. Following another car passing
D. **Never**

FURTHER EXPLORATION

- Visit www.findmedriving.com and follow SAM (@findmedriving) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

