

**(Article)**

**SET THE EXAMPLE**

Set the example and be a courteous driver. According to recent news reports, common courtesy on the road has nearly disappeared. One of the biggest safety hazards on our roads today is the growing number of discourteous drivers.

Discourteous drivers commonly tailgate, pass improperly, cut off other motorists, engage in unnecessary horn honking, weave in and out of traffic, flash headlights to get others out of their way, and sometimes display other inappropriate behavior over perceived affronts.

Losing self-control is the issue. Seemingly insignificant incidents such as parking space disputes, fender benders, obscene gestures, loud music, or failure to use a turn signal, can lead to violent behavior.

To become a more courteous driver, experts recommend:

- Use the passing lane only when passing
- Signal before switching lanes
- Allow plenty of space between your car and the car in front of you--do not tailgate
- When driving slowly, stay to the right
- Pull off the road to use your cell phone, otherwise, it may distract you
- Park in only one parking space

To avoid becoming the victim of a discourteous driver:

- Never underestimate the other driver's capacity for mayhem
- Avoid eye contact with trouble making motorists
- Don't challenge hostile drivers or react in any way. Instead, make every attempt to get away from them
- Get the license plate number of a discourteous driver and report them to the police
- Don't return gestures
- Use your horn sparingly
- Keep your distance from those who are driving erratically
- Keep your cool

The roads are dangerous enough without provoking drivers who are capable of violent acts.

*Source:* Network of Employers for Traffic Safety