

## Steer Clear of Aggressive Driving

**?** What is **aggressive driving**? **Aggressive driving** is defined by the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) as the behavior of an individual who "commits a combination of moving traffic offences to endanger other persons or property." Speeding and other aggressive driving behaviors are among the leading causes of highway crashes and fatalities in Pennsylvania.

According to Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) crash statistics, aggressive driving played a role in 6,828 crashes in 2017, including 124 fatal crashes.

To help combat this dangerous driving

behavior, PennDOT has partnered with law enforcement agencies across the state to hold aggressive driving enforcement waves.

This edition of the Road Ahead takes a closer look at aggressive driving and the importance of safe driving.



### #DontDriveAggressive

The current aggressive driving enforcement wave runs from March 2 to April 29.

The campaign coincides with National Distracted Driving Month (April) and National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 9 to 13). During these times, local and state police will be working to keep the roads safe for everyone by ticketing aggressive drivers.

Last year officers participating in the aggressive driving enforcement campaigns wrote **44,160** aggressive-driving related citations, including **27,017** for speeding. Failing to stop for red lights and stop signs was the **second most-common offense, resulting in 2,493 citations.**



## Are You An Aggressive Driver?



Aggressive driving is associated with road rage. However, they are two different behaviors. Road rage, is a criminal offense, which is often the result of aggressive driving behavior that escalates into an assault with a vehicle or other dangerous weapon.

### Do a Self-Check

Take the following quiz to determine if you may be an aggressive driver.

- ◇ Do you speed excessively?
- ◇ Do you tailgate slower vehicles?
- ◇ Do you race to beat red lights or run stop signs?
- ◇ Do you weave in and out of traffic?
- ◇ Do you pass illegally on the right?
- ◇ Do you fail to yield the right of way to oncoming vehicles?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, you may be an aggressive driver and are putting yourself, your passengers and other people on the road at increased risk of a crash.



### WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER A DRIVER WITH ROAD RAGE?

If you encounter an aggressive driver who appears to be suffering from road rage, PennDOT offers these tips for what to do:

- Get out of their way and don't challenge them.
- Stay relaxed, avoid eye contact and ignore rude gestures.
- Don't block the passing lane if you are driving slower than most of the traffic.
- Do not attempt to follow or pursue the vehicle.

For more information on aggressive driving, visit [www.penndot.gov/safety](http://www.penndot.gov/safety).

Join the conversation on social media by using the hashtag #DontDriveAggressive.

## TAKE CARE AND SLOW DOWN, FOR SAFETY'S SAKE!