ROAD RAGE (AGGRESSIVE DRIVING)

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration defines AGGRESSIVE DRIVING as “an individual committing a combination of moving offenses so as to endanger other persons or property.” Although the term is defined, every driver can spot aggressive driving. Law enforcement agencies note that aggressive driving is on the rise. Factors that contribute to aggressive driving include frustration, which can be increased by traffic congestion. Common practices of aggressive drivers include:

• tailgating to punish a driver
• braking suddenly to punish the driver behind
• changing lanes frequently
• driving faster than the posted speed, speeding through yellow stop lights, and blocking passing lanes
• cutting other drivers off
• making threatening or rude gestures

Never confront an aggressive driver. Violence and deadly consequences can result by confronting an aggressive driver.

If confronted with an aggressive driver, call 911. Other safe driving techniques to practice if encountering an aggressive driver:

• Concentrate on driving.
• Refrain from eating, talking to others, or engaging in other activities while driving.
• Slow down and avoid the aggressive driver.
• Consider an alternate route.
• Do not challenge the aggressive driver.
• Do not make eye contact or make gestures.
• Yield and allow vehicles to pass.

BE PREPARED. If plans include rush hour driving or other factors that could lead to encountering an aggressive driver, do not engage the driver. Always include discussions with others about aggressive driving habits during the planning stages of the trip.