



## RURAL ROADS ARE NOT CITY STREETS

You will come upon horse-drawn vehicles on rural roads which are generally narrower than city streets. Because rural roads are narrower, motorists must use extra caution when approaching or passing horse-drawn vehicles.

*Aside from slow moving vehicles, drivers should also be alert to the following when driving on rural roads:*

- ♦ Open ditches are often deep and close to the Road.
- ♦ Open roadways may have sharp dips or unexpected turns.
- ♦ In winter, a road shaded by trees or buildings may be icy.
- ♦ Hazardous blind spots are created by wooded areas, corn fields or other tall crops.

### REMEMBER!

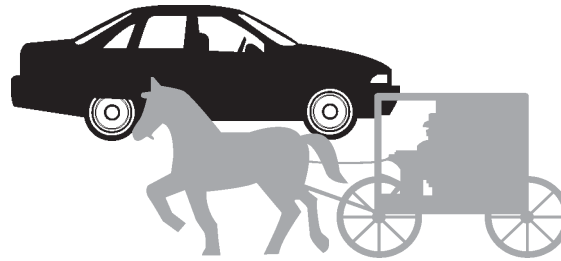
Rural Roads are Not City Streets  
Allow a Cushion of Safety  
Horses are Unpredictable



This Sign Means Slow Moving Vehicle

## BE PATIENT AND COURTEOUS...

### PLEASE SHARE THE ROAD



Keep in mind that the Amish are just trying to get to their destination the same as you.

### CHECK LIST:

- 1  Orange Triangle Sign
- 2  Harness
- 3  Hubs/Wheels
- 4  Seasoned Animal
- 5  Qualified Driver
- 6  2 Tail Lights/Charged Battery
- 7  Weather Conditions

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## THIS SIGN MEANS



## SLOW MOVING VEHICLE

This is a slow-moving vehicle sign and is commonly found on farm equipment, construction equipment and animal-drawn vehicles. The sign is designed to alert motorists to slow down and use caution. Usually, vehicles displaying the slow-moving vehicle sign are traveling less than 25 mph.

Operating a motor vehicle through communities that include horse-drawn buggies and equipment is quite different than that of driving in other rural or urban areas.

*For instance:*

Horse-drawn buggies are dark in color, travel less than 8 mph and are difficult to pick out, especially at dusk or at night. Unalert and unfamiliar motorists may find themselves suddenly coming upon a horse-drawn vehicle on the road, giving rise to a potentially hazardous situation.



One hazard to consider is that horses are unpredictable and even the most road-safe horse can “spook” at a fast-moving motor vehicle. Don’t get frustrated or impatient and begin honking the horn, this will only startle the horse and jeopardize lives. Be sure to slow down when approaching and when passing, allow plenty of room and only pass where it is safe and legal.

Another potential hazard is that drivers of horse-drawn vehicles may not be able to adequately see the cars behind. Following too closely is especially dangerous, as it puts undue pressure on the horse and its driver and may impair your visibility. Therefore, maintain a safe distance behind a horse-drawn vehicle and eventually, the buggy will pull over or turn off.

Leaving a “cushion of safety” between you and a horse-drawn vehicle saves lives. A “cushion of safety” means that you should maintain a measurable distance from the front of your car to the rear of the buggy. This will allow plenty of time to recognize and respond to a situation while driving. Allowing adequate space will also provide you with a safe distance to prepare to pass. Leave space between your vehicle and a buggy stopped at a stop sign or light, because buggies often roll back a few feet after coming to a complete stop. A good rule of thumb is to stop your vehicle far enough back so that you can see where the rear wheels of the buggy touch the road. This should give you 10-12 feet of clearance between your vehicle and the buggy. This rule does not apply to drivers of vans or mini-vans; because of the short hood. These drivers must remember to STAY BACK.

