

Even the Fastest Horse Is Slow Compared to Your Car

Knowing “closure time” is a safety factor that could save lives. “Closure time” is the time a driver has to recognize and respond when coming upon other vehicles.

Imagine traveling at 55 mph and coming upon a car traveling at 45 mph that is 500 feet (about 1/10 of a mile) ahead. After 6 seconds, you will have 412 feet to react before colliding with that car. However, if traveling at 55 mph and coming upon a horse-drawn vehicle traveling at 5 mph that is 500 feet ahead, you will have only 44 feet to react before colliding in the same 6 seconds. The car would hit the horse-drawn vehicle in just 6½ seconds. Therefore, immediately upon seeing the slow-moving vehicle emblem, slow down and prepare to pass with caution.

0 seconds



6 seconds



0 seconds



6 seconds



This Sign Means Caution, 6/93, Developed by Dr. T. L. Bean, Ms. A. J. Yarosh, Mr. T. J. Lawrence, and R. E. James. Reviewed by Dr. J. A. Gliem, Mr. R. L. Clason and R. Elaine Hitchcock.

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