

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (TRUCKS)

Q: Do truck really damage the roads?

A: A study done in the 1990's determined one 80,000 lb. truck does as much damage to the road as 900 cars. Heavy trucks stress the pavement. The freeze-thaw cycles we experience in the St. Louis area cause the roads to crack further and create potholes.

Q: Are semi-truck drivers allowed to park their trucks on a residential street if they live there?

A: As long as their truck is of legal weight and size, they are allowed access for the purpose of loading, unloading, food, fuel, rest and repairs. Drivers must abide by all City of O'Fallon parking ordinances. Please contact the Police Department if you have a complaint about this.

Q: What can I do to safely share the road with large trucks?

A: Please keep in mind that a typical 4-door sedan weighs about 3,000 lbs. Trucks on our major arterial roads routinely operate at 80,000 lbs. It takes a truck, in perfect conditions, considerably more time to stop than a car. Please remember the following safe driving tips when traveling near trucks:

- ***Don't try to beat the truck.*** Speeding around the truck, changing lanes in front of it, and braking hard may cause a bad crash. Be patient, slow down and move in behind the truck if you need to turn.
- ***Don't tailgate a truck.*** A truck will slow quickly even without using the brake. Don't wait for the trucks brake lights to come on to use your brakes.
- ***Let the truck pass.*** Don't pull out from a driveway, parking lot or intersecting street thinking the truck can stop or slow down in time.
- ***Don't pass a truck on the right.*** Longer trucks may have to swing out to the left in order to complete a right turn, especially on local roads around shopping centers and industrial areas. Passing on the right is illegal on any street or shoulder, and can have terrible consequences if you don't realize the truck is turning in front of you.
- ***Assume all trucks are fully loaded.*** Don't drive based on an assumption that a truck is operating on empty weight. Even Empty trucks take longer to stop than your car.
- ***Use your turn signal.*** The more advance notice you can give the truck driver of your upcoming turn, the better decision the truck driver can make to safely navigate the truck.

Q: Are big trucks allowed to drive on residential roads?

A: The short answer is “yes.” All trucks have to stay at or below maximum gross and axle weights and length limitations for the road. There are some streets where truck traffic is restricted. There are allowances for loading and unloading.

Q: If I have a complaint about a truck, what should I do?

A: You can call the O’Fallon Police anytime you need police service. If your complaint requires immediate attention, please call the O’Fallon Police Department at 618-624-4545. If it is an emergency call 9-1-1. If your complaint is regarding an on-going problem, or you have general questions about trucks, please contact the Truck Enforcement Unit by email trucks@ofallon.org or by phone 618-624-4545.

Q: If my vehicle exceeds 16,000 pounds, do I need an overweight permit on local weight restricted roads?

A: No. You DO NOT need an overweight permit for weight in excess of 16,000 pounds. Overweight permits are only required for those vehicles with non-divisible loads which exceed the legal weight limits set forth in the Illinois Vehicle Code.