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NEWS

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TRAFFIC SAFETY HINTS

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Aggressive driving tactics and road rage are serious problems that often result in unnecessary traffic accidents and vehicle-related fatalities. Help make Illinois roadways safer by learning the causes of road rage and what to do if you encounter an angry motorist.

Q. How can I prevent aggressive driving and road rage?

A. Before getting behind the wheel, set aside your stress, anger and worries, and make safe driving your priority.

- Plan ahead and allow enough time so that you do not feel rushed.
- Do not speed, tailgate or block the passing lane.
- Keep your radio at a reasonable volume and avoid using your horn excessively.
- Always use your signal when changing lanes. Do not cut off other drivers.
- Be considerate when using your headlights. Use the high beams only when conditions require them, and be sure to dim them for oncoming traffic.
- Remember that drivers do make mistakes. Do not take driving violations personally, and never retaliate.

Q. What should I do if I am confronted by an aggressive driver or a potential road rage incident?

A. Steer clear of the offender.

- Do not make eye contact or even look in the direction of the aggressor.
- Do not make obscene gestures or swear at other drivers.
- Stay calm, keep your focus on the road and do not react if you are provoked.
- You cannot control traffic or the behavior of other drivers; you can only control your own responses.

Driving is a privilege and a responsibility. Do not let stress and frustration get the best of you while driving. If you are a victim of violent road rage, drive to a safe place and notify the police immediately.