

The *Addiction Treatment Providers Insurance Program* brings you...

# The Voice

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## *A Risk Management Guide!*

### ***Driver Safety - Avoiding the Rear End Collision***

**Fact:** 25% of auto accidents are caused by “rear-end” collisions

**Fact:** “Rear-end” collisions by your drivers can be avoided by staying alert and maintaining a proper **Space Cushion**.

#### **What is a Space Cushion?**

A Space Cushion provides the driver time to identify a hazard and implement the necessary driving response. The appropriate Space Cushion should be maintained in all driving situations to allow the driver time to respond to changing traffic situations.

**Fact:** If your drivers adhere to the following tips on Space Cushions they are less likely to cause a “rear-end” collision:

#### **What is the appropriate Space Cushion?**

- A car or van needs a 3 second Space Cushion
- A bus or truck needs 4 seconds
- For a speed of travel over 40 mph, add 1 second to the above rules
- For adverse driving conditions, add 1 additional second

#### **How do I measure a Space Cushion?**

- When the vehicle ahead of you passes a fixed object (tree, sign, pole, etc.) on the side of the road start counting - one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three, etc.
- If you pass the fixed object before you finish counting to the appropriate number, you are following too closely and need to increase the Space Cushion

#### **How can I maintain a Space Cushion?**

- Leave a few minutes early - then you can back off, slow down and still arrive on time!
- Get in the habit - follow at a proper distance!

**Share this information with your drivers. Driver Safety is a mindset and should constantly be reinforced with your drivers.**



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