



CHAPTER RIDER EDUCATOR

To Pass or Not To Pass, that is the question

It's a wonderful day for your favorite scenic highway. The morning traffic is light, the weather is sunny and warm but not hot and the bike is running great. It has been an enjoyable ride so far at a very comfortable pace. The only negative is a delivery truck that you have been following for the last few miles. The driver speeds up then brakes for no apparent reason. You'd like to pass, but the truck blocks your view of the road ahead.

Finally, you hang over the centerline just enough to see a straight ahead with no one in the oncoming lane. You signal, do a quick shoulder check, and accelerate as you pull over to pass. But just as you are almost even with the back of the truck it suddenly slows and starts moving across the centerline towards you. You're shocked to realize the truck is turning left into a driveway. You brake as hard as you can without skidding your tires and manage to bring the bike to a stop inches from the truck as it continues into the driveway.

The erratic driving by the truck driver should have been a clue that he was looking for an address and not focusing on the motorcycle behind him. And the truck slowing at this point was a clue that the driver might be about to turn off the highway. While it appeared that the straight road ahead would be a good place to pass, you should have observed the driveway on your left and predicted the possibility of the truck making a left turn. While your quick stopping skills enabled you to avoid a collision, better predicting skills could have helped you avoid the hazard in the first place.

Ride Safely, Think Safety

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