

IDENTIFYING YOUR OWN ROAD RAGE TRIGGERS

Many people experience anger and frustration when they are driving. Below are some of the triggers (e.g. situations and people) that may increase your level of anger on the roadways. Think about and rate the ones that are frustrating, upsetting, or irritating in the past (the 12 months when you had the most anger in the car during your lifetime) or the present (the most recent 12 months) for you using the following scale (these can be added to your *Escalation Prevention Plan* if anger on the highways has been an issue for you).

1	2	3	4	5
not frustrating at all		somewhat frustrating		very frustrating

Past Present

- | | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| ___ | ___ | Having to wait a long time at stop lights or stop signs |
| ___ | ___ | Weather conditions that slow the traffic flow (e.g. snowstorms, rain showers) |
| ___ | ___ | Road construction that interferes with the traffic flow |
| ___ | ___ | Driving congestion (e.g. during rush hour or at other times) that slows the traffic flow |
| ___ | ___ | Pedestrians who are moving very slowly through crosswalks |
| ___ | ___ | Pedestrians who are “jaywalking” and “illegally” crossing the street |
| ___ | ___ | Bicyclists who ride on the roadways |
| ___ | ___ | Bicyclists who ride the “wrong way” (i.e. against the automobile traffic) on the streets |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who are blocking traffic when they pick someone up or drop someone off |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who seem tentative, confused, or uncertain about where they are going or what they are doing in their car |
| ___ | ___ | Old drivers |
| ___ | ___ | Slow drivers |
| ___ | ___ | Fast drivers |
| ___ | ___ | Women drivers |
| ___ | ___ | Young drivers |
| ___ | ___ | Reckless or careless drivers |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers of a different race |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who are combing their hair, looking in the mirror, putting on makeup, or “primping” |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who are using their cell phones or texting while they are operating their vehicles |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who are eating or drinking in their cars |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who are reading, doing crossword puzzles, or surfing the internet in their cars |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who are talking to other passengers in their car and not paying attention to the road and to what they are doing |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who are too “compulsive” or overly careful (e.g. signal turns too early, leave “too much space” between their car and the car ahead of them) |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who own “fancy” or expensive cars (e.g. BMW, Lexus, Mercedes) |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who own little “sporty” cars |

Past Present

- ___ ___ Drivers who own large trucks or SUV's
- ___ ___ Drivers whose cars are loud (i.e. with blaring/"thumping" stereo systems or sounding like their mufflers need repair work)
- ___ ___ Drivers whose cars have dark tinted windows
- ___ ___ Drivers who own old, rusty, or poorly-cared-for cars
- ___ ___ Drivers who have "offensive" (to you) bumper stickers or personalized license plates
e.g. _____
- ___ ___ Drivers who don't use their turn signals when they change lanes or make turns
- ___ ___ Drivers who don't use their left turn signal at a stoplight until the light changes to green
- ___ ___ Drivers who don't acknowledge or express gratitude for a driving favor you've done for them (e.g. allowing them to enter a highway in front of you)
- ___ ___ Drivers who try to pull into a parking space that you've been waiting for
- ___ ___ Drivers who don't signal a left turn until they are actually stopped at a stoplight
- ___ ___ Drivers who are slow to move out when a stoplight turns green
- ___ ___ Drivers who make right turns on stoplights when they are not supposed to
- ___ ___ Drivers who don't make right turns on stoplights when they are allowed to do so
- ___ ___ Drivers who don't go through the intersection when the light is still yellow
- ___ ___ Drivers who enter intersections when the traffic light is yellow
- ___ ___ Drivers who "roll through" stop signs without really stopping
- ___ ___ Drivers who run stop signs or red lights at stoplights
- ___ ___ Drivers who drive fast and weave in and out of traffic
- ___ ___ Drivers who race through pedestrian crosswalks when people are trying to cross there
- ___ ___ Drivers who drive fast or recklessly in bad weather or on poor road conditions
- ___ ___ Drivers who try to get to the head of the line when the road merges to fewer lanes
- ___ ___ Drivers who flash you with their bright lights
- ___ ___ Drivers coming from the opposite direction who don't dim their headlights
- ___ ___ Drivers who go through "on ramp" signals illegally
- ___ ___ Drivers who pass you on the shoulder of the road
- ___ ___ Drivers who speed up when you are trying to pass them
- ___ ___ Drivers or motorcyclists who are speeding
- ___ ___ Drivers who tailgate you
- ___ ___ Drivers who tap or pump their brakes when you are behind them to try to slow you down
- ___ ___ Drivers who honk at you
- ___ ___ Drivers who stare, glare, or make facial expressions at you as they go by
- ___ ___ Drivers who raise their hands to express disapproval or frustration, "flip you off," or make other obscene gestures directed at you
- ___ ___ Drivers who "block" you or who don't go fast enough for you in the passing lane
- ___ ___ Drivers who try to stop you from coming into their lane
- ___ ___ Drivers who attempt to stop you from merging when you are trying to enter a freeway

Past Present

- | | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who drive all the way to the front of a lane next to you when that lane is ending and they will need to merge into your lane |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who yell or curse at you as they go by |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who try to get you to “pull over to talk” to them by the side of the road (e.g. by pointing in that direction) |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who follow you to where you are going |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who try to “talk to you” about your poor driving habits if they have followed you or ended up at the same destination |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who swerve toward your car to try to intimidate you |
| ___ | ___ | Drivers who throw something in your direction or at your car to “punish” you for what they perceive to be your “misbehavior” on the road |