






Drive Safely in Amish Country



Driving through rural Pennsylvania will provide views of cornfields, cows, barns and horse-drawn buggies moving at speeds around ten miles per hour.









To ensure everyone is safe on our roadways:

-  **Slow down when approaching and passing horse-drawn buggies.** Leave plenty of room to pass where it is safe and allow at least **20 feet** in front of the horse before returning to the travel lane.
-  **Do not follow too closely**, as drivers of horse-drawn buggies may not be able to see you behind them.
-  **Leave plenty of space between you and the horse-drawn buggy.** This space gives you time to react.
-  **When stopped at a stop sign or stoplight, stay back!** Buggies often roll back a few feet after coming to a complete stop.
-  **Do not blow your horn!** Horses can be unpredictable and are easily spooked.
-  Horse-drawn buggies will drive as close to the **right hand side** of the road as possible.
-  Buggies will merge towards the center when making a **left-hand turn**. Drivers will often use turn signals or hand gestures to alert motorists.
-  **Remember, at night, the buggy is illuminated** but the **horse may be dark** without reflective harnessing and can be difficult to see.

*Images and information provided by PennDOT



Did You Know...?

-  Most horse and buggies can be longer than a full size pick up truck.
-  Buggies can weigh up to 1,000 pounds.
-  The average speed for a driving horse is 10 miles per hour with a top speed of 25 miles per hour. On average, horses can travel 20 miles a day.
-  Horses that will be used for driving attend a four to six week professional training. The professional training can cost a family between \$10 to \$12 a day.
-  A buggy can cost \$6,700 to \$10,000.
-  The average life span of a driving horse is 18 years. A driving horse costs about five dollars a day to maintain or about \$32,000 per lifetime. The average Amish family has two to four driving horses.
-  A driving horse eats anywhere from 12 to 15 pounds of food everyday.
-  The most common horse breed used by the Amish for driving is a Saddlebred.



The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division is a non-profit organization committed to preventing traumatic injury and death through education.

2 Flowers Drive, Mechanicsburg PA 17050

717-766-1616

www.atspa.org

atspa@atspa.org



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