The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has estimated that there are 630,000 Lane Changes with 225 fatalities annually. They have also found that about 60% of drivers involved in LCM crashes did not see the other vehicle, and about 30% of drivers misjudged the positions or speed of the other vehicle. Blind zones are involved in every lane change/merge maneuver.

Driving large vehicles presents an additional problem not always found in personal vehicles. **Blind Zones** (areas that cannot be seen using rear view or side mirrors) can often be the cause accidents.

- Know your vehicle.
- If there are blind zones, look over your shoulder before changing lanes.
- Adjust your side mirrors to cover as much of the Blind Zone as possible.
- Make sure that these areas are clear of traffic prior to switching lanes or merging into traffic.
- Never back up without checking behind your vehicle
- A cone should be set at the rear of the vehicle on the traffic side whenever you park.