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.

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Funded by the Psalms 103 Foundation.