# A screen shot of a computer  Description automatically generatedsafe lane merging

Lane merging is a common factor to deal with when driving; whether temporary in a construction zone, a permanent merge lane such as an on a ramp or when a highway narrows. Merging can be especially challenging and dangerous for truckers and one of the most common causes of heavy and semi-truck crashes.

*Areas to consider:*

* Know blind spots well and when in question play it safe and give ample room to merge
* Signal well ahead of lane switching to allow other drivers to stay back or go past
* Merge slowly paying special attention to vehicles passing on the right side of the truck
* Ensure mirrors are optimally placed for viewing passing vehicles
* Watch for vehicles that are suddenly “missing” that may be in a blind spot

*Training:*

* Practice merging techniques with the team in a safe environment
* Learn blind spots
* Practice changing lanes/merging in exam form
* Mirror adjustment should be done during this training
* Report any near misses to be used as a teaching moment

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