

# Traffic jam leadership

By Wayne Bailey



Wayne Bailey

I was traveling down a crowded expressway this week with vehicles and large trucks everywhere. My thoughts were that traffic jams reflect our leadership or lack of. I began to compare how vehicles were being driven and how that compared to leadership.

The first comparison was people not turning on their turn signal. In life, sometimes we have people that go off and do their own thing, especially on the fire ground and not tell anyone. Freelancing on the fire ground is a no no. As you know, this can be dangerous to this person and the people around them.

Brake light is out. You wonder to yourself, is that a turn signal when they pump the brakes? As leaders, we need to have our bodies working in conjunction with our brain. Showing up to work with a hangover and some of your

senses not working could also get you and others hurt. Make sure all parts are working.

Pushing their way in front of you. This happened to me today. In my world, that's the actions of a bully. Someone that's driving and doesn't move over until the last minute due to road construction or a lane closure. They pass all the traffic in the right lane and move over the right lane when the road finally closes. Who is this person in your life? Someone that breaks the line and goes to the front? If this is you, stop! Your peers or who you may have influence over doesn't appreciate the rudeness, even if it makes you feel important.

Size doesn't matter. These big trucks, 18-wheelers I call them, can give a five second warning with a turn signal and you either get run over or get out of the way. These are Type A personalities. You may be one of them. You're saying, "Get on the train or be left." Be careful that you don't run over the people

that make you look good. When you walk through a room, lift people up, not tear them down.

Using finger sign language when you don't allow someone to cut in line. Some people are just rude. Can't say they were born that way. Somewhere in life they were either not taught respect or ignored their parents or family members that tried to instill politeness. These type people, I just ignore. They are not worth your time and effort to get mad or cause some serious road rage.

Battery dead or out of petrol on the side of the road. Some people just never know when to stop and recharge their battery or refuel. As leaders, it's important to take time off from work, reflect, step back and look at the big picture. If you're running hard with your head down, it's hard to see what's ahead. Take time to recharge your batteries. A strong battery will keep the new ideas flowing and allow you to see the big picture on that next call. 🔥



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