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Changing Driving Habits Since 1952

Smith System Driver Improvement Institute, Inc.
Arlington, TX 76006
SOME HISTORY

- Developed by Harold Smith in 1948
- Established as a company in 1952
- Incorporated in California in 1961
We’ve worked with over half the Fortune 500

⇒ FEDEX
⇒ BELL SOUTH
⇒ EXXONMOBIL
⇒ GENERAL ELECTRIC
⇒ JOHNSON & JOHNSON
⇒ ROADWAY EXPRESS
For each death there are:

1 Death
68 Injuries
148 Total Collisions
262 Vehicles Involved
1,416 Citations Issued
$5,407,687 Dollars Spent

? Unsafe Acts

Can you afford to be involved?

Source: NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts 2003
CAUSES OF COLLISIONS

- Inattention
- Impairment
- Tailgating
- Weather
- Fatigue
- Roads
- Speed
- Health
- Attitude
- Inexperienced
- Other Drivers
- Vehicle Condition
USE OF THE 5 KEYS PROVIDES:

⇒ SPACE for the vehicle
⇒ VISIBILITY for the driver
⇒ TIME to make decisions
THE BENEFITS:

- Reduced Collision Potential
- Reduced Fuel Usage
- Reduced Maintenance
- Lower Insurance Expense
- Reduced Anxiety and Stress
5 KEYS OF THE SMITH SYSTEM®

Key 1 AIM HIGH IN STEERING®

Key 2 GET THE BIG PICTURE®

Key 3 KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING®

Key 4 LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT®

Key 5 MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU®
Key 1 Aim High
In Steering ®

⇒ An animal’s eyesight is suited to its survival needs

⇒ Average drivers have 3 - 6 seconds of Eye Lead Time

⇒ Expand your Eye Lead to a minimum of 15 seconds
Key 1 Aim High
In Steering ®

6 Second
Eye Lead Time

15 Second
Eye Lead Time
Scan your mirrors every 5 - 8 seconds to achieve a circle of awareness.
Key 2 Get The Big Picture ®

⇒ Relevant and Non-Relevant objects

⇒ Position your vehicle so you can see

⇒ Maintain the proper following distance at all times
Key 3 Keep Your Eyes Moving

- Peripheral Vision
  About 180 degrees of visibility

- Central Vision
  About three degrees of clear visibility
Key 3 Keep Your Eyes Moving

- Blank and Fixed stares
- Avoid focusing on one object for more than 2 seconds
Key 4 Leave Yourself An Out ®

- Avoid traveling in traffic clusters
- Surround yourself with space
- Anticipate the actions of others
Key 5 Make Sure They See You

- Eye Contact
- Warning Devices
- Proper Timing Is Essential
REMEMBER THE 5 KEYS

Key 1 AIM HIGH IN STEERING®
⇒ Look ahead a minimum of 15 seconds

Key 2 GET THE BIG PICTURE®
⇒ 4-second minimum following distance
  ⇒ Scan mirrors every 5 - 8 seconds

Key 3 KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING®
⇒ Avoid focusing on one object for more than 2 seconds

Key 4 LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT®
⇒ Surround yourself with space

Key 5 MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU®
⇒ Eye contact
THE 5 KEYS TO SAFE BACKING

Can We Remove Reverse?

MANY FLEETS REPORT THAT MORE THAN 30% OF THEIR INCIDENTS HAPPEN WHILE BACKING
WHY DO BACKING COLLISIONS HAPPEN?

- Backing Unnecessarily
- Blind Areas
- Vehicle Design
- Infrequent Practice
- Limited Mental Preparation For Backing
- Inadequate Information During Backing
Key 1 Aim High
In Steering ®

⇒ When Possible, Avoid Backing

⇒ Think About Your Departure Upon Your Arrival
Key 2 Get The Big Picture ®

⇒ When in doubt
  GET
  OUT
  AND
  LOOK

⇒ Scan For Potential Hazards
⇒ Use a guide if available
Key 3 Keep Your Eyes Moving ®

⇒ Scan the entire area

⇒ Don’t forget the front and the sides

⇒ Back slowly
Key 4 Leave Yourself An Out

⇒ Cushion your vehicle with space
Key 5 Make Sure They See You ®

- Get eye contact
- Use warning devices
- If you don’t know… DON’T GO!
When possible, avoid backing!
If you must back...

Key 1 AIM HIGH IN STEERING®
⇒ Choose the safest location possible

Key 2 GET THE BIG PICTURE®
⇒ Search for all potential hazards

Key 3 KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING®
⇒ Scan, don’t fixate

Key 4 LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT®
⇒ Surround yourself with space

Key 5 MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU®
⇒ Use warning devices - Make eye contact