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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*

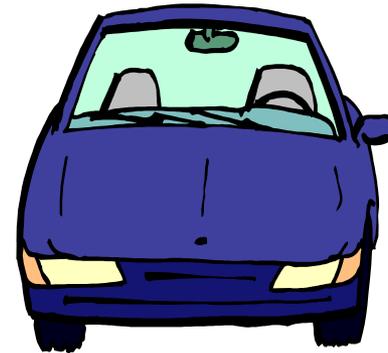
⇒ *BELLSOUTH*

⇒ *EXXONMOBIL*

⇒ *GENERAL ELECTRIC*

⇒ *JOHNSON & JOHNSON*

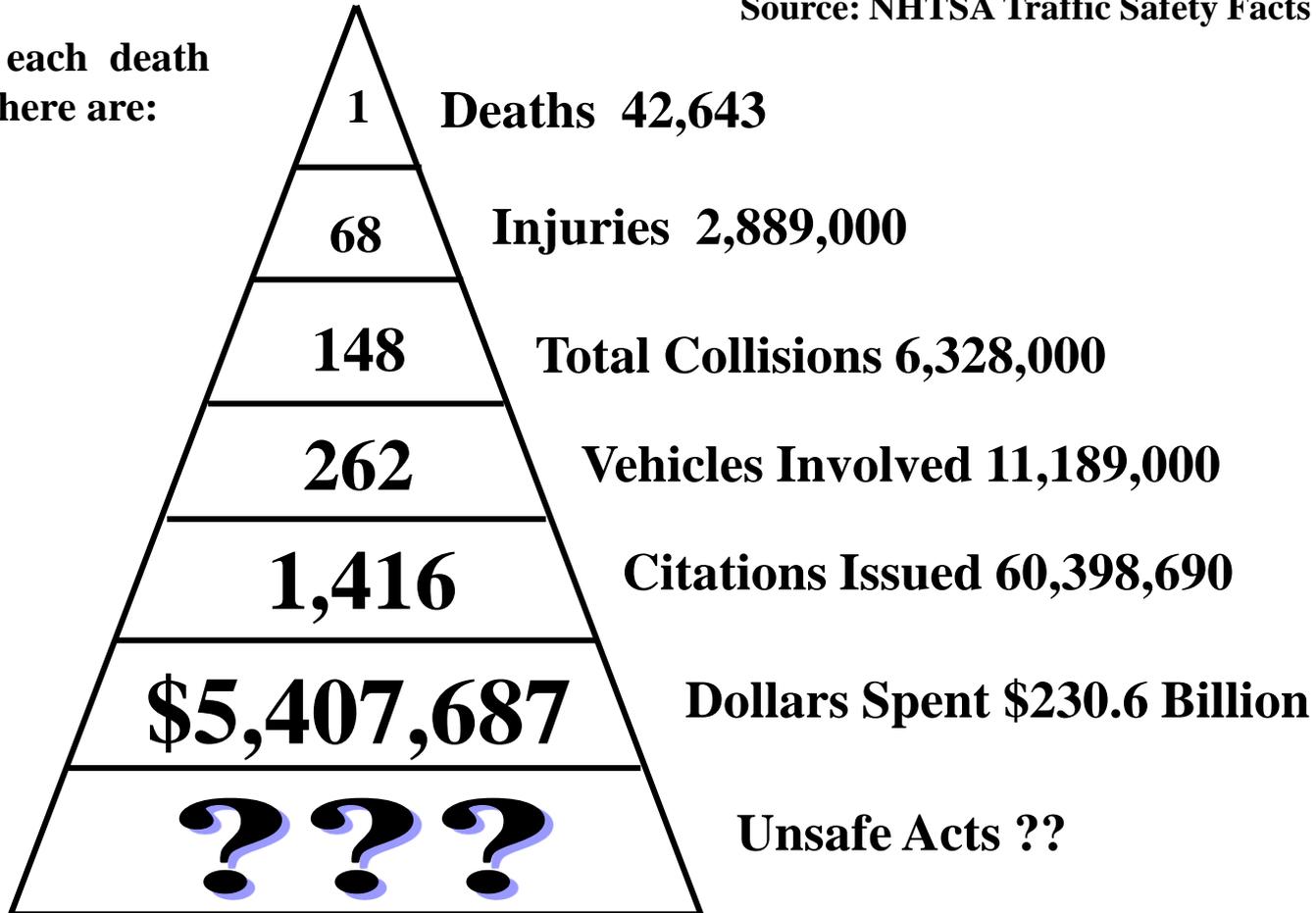
⇒ *ROADWAY EXPRESS*



TRAFFIC COLLISION TRIANGLE

Source: NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts 2003

For each death
there are:



Can you afford to be involved?

CAUSES OF COLLISIONS

- ⇒ **Inattention**
- ⇒ **Impairment**
- ⇒ **Tailgating**
- ⇒ **Weather**
- ⇒ **Fatigue**
- ⇒ **Roads**
- ⇒ **Speed**
- ⇒ **Health**
- ⇒ **Attitude**
- ⇒ **Inexperience**
- ⇒ **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

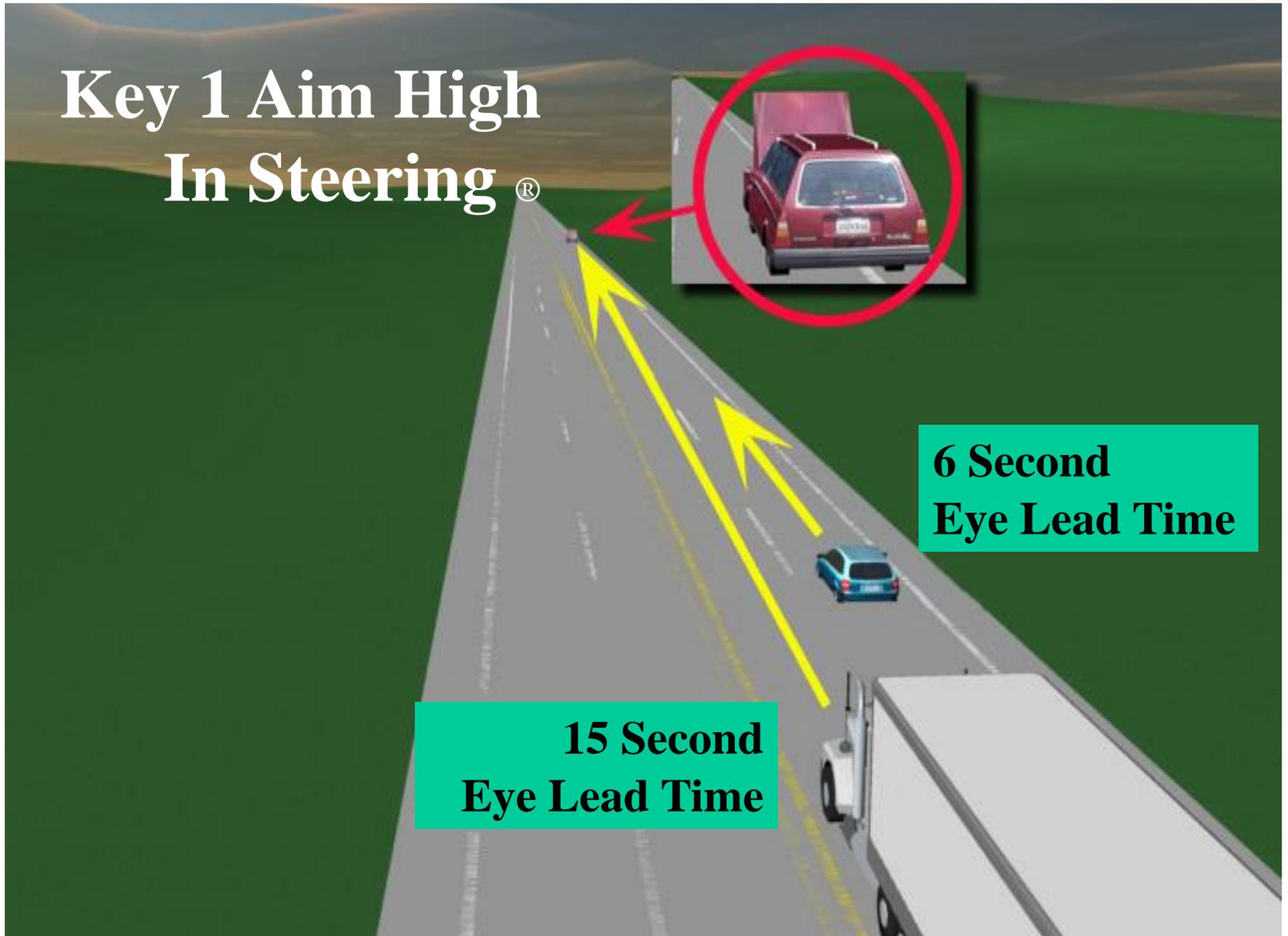


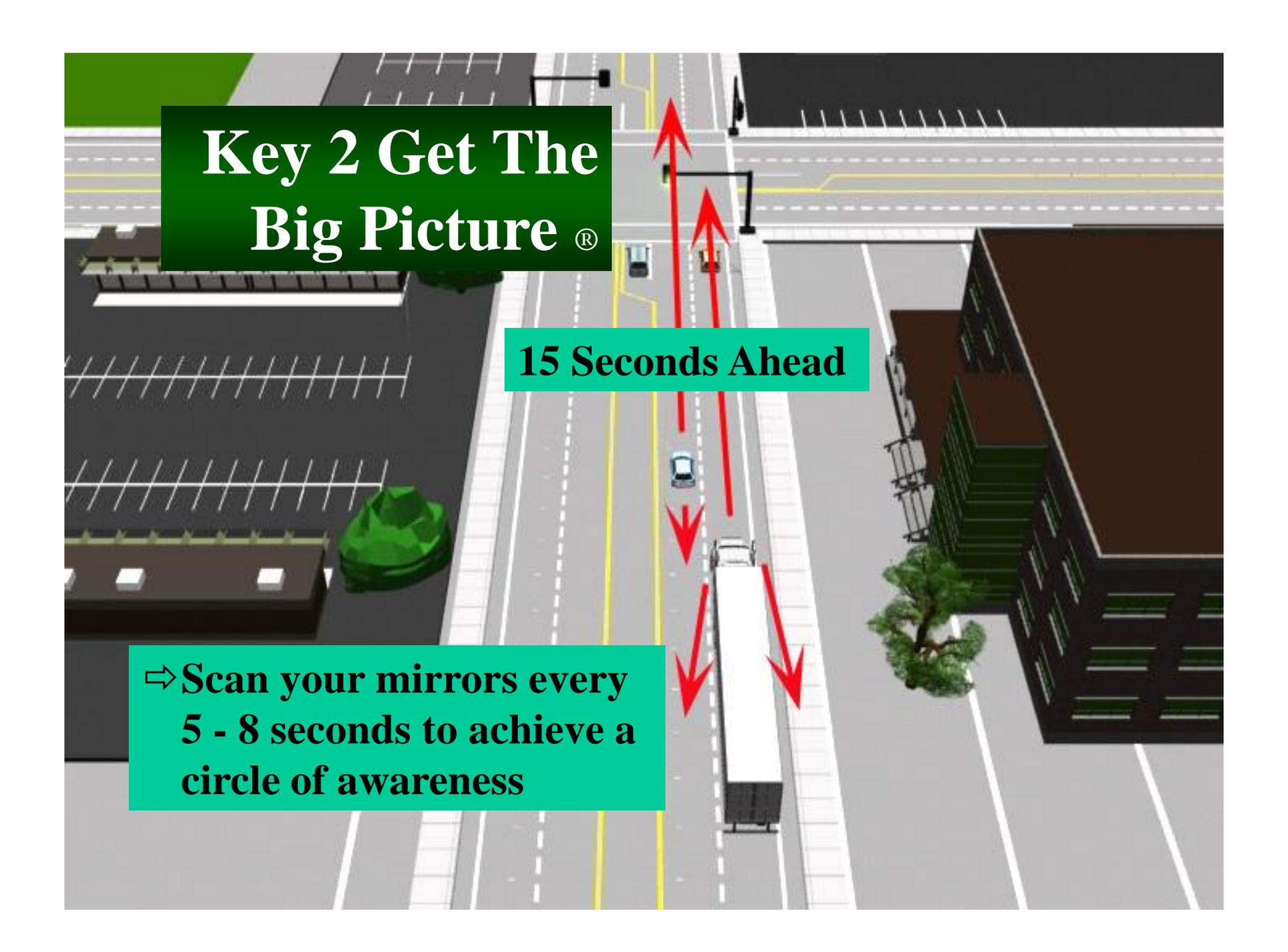
Key 1 Aim High In Steering [®]



**6 Second
Eye Lead Time**

**15 Second
Eye Lead Time**

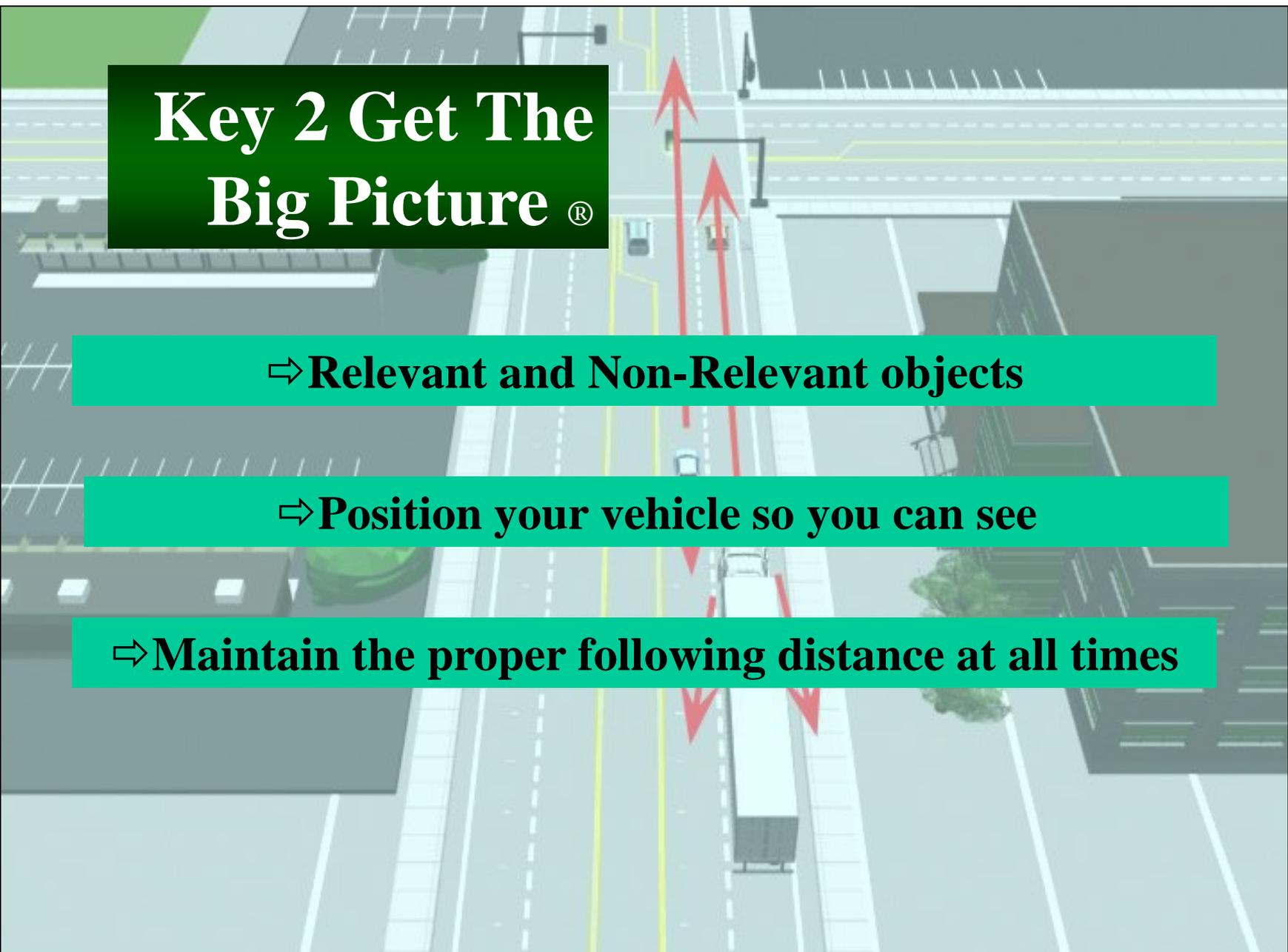


An aerial view of a road with a truck and a car. Red arrows point forward and backward from the truck, indicating a 15-second scan range. The scene includes a parking lot, buildings, and trees.

Key 2 Get The Big Picture [®]

15 Seconds Ahead

⇒ **Scan your mirrors every 5 - 8 seconds to achieve a circle of awareness**



Key 2 Get The Big Picture [®]

⇒ Relevant and Non-Relevant objects

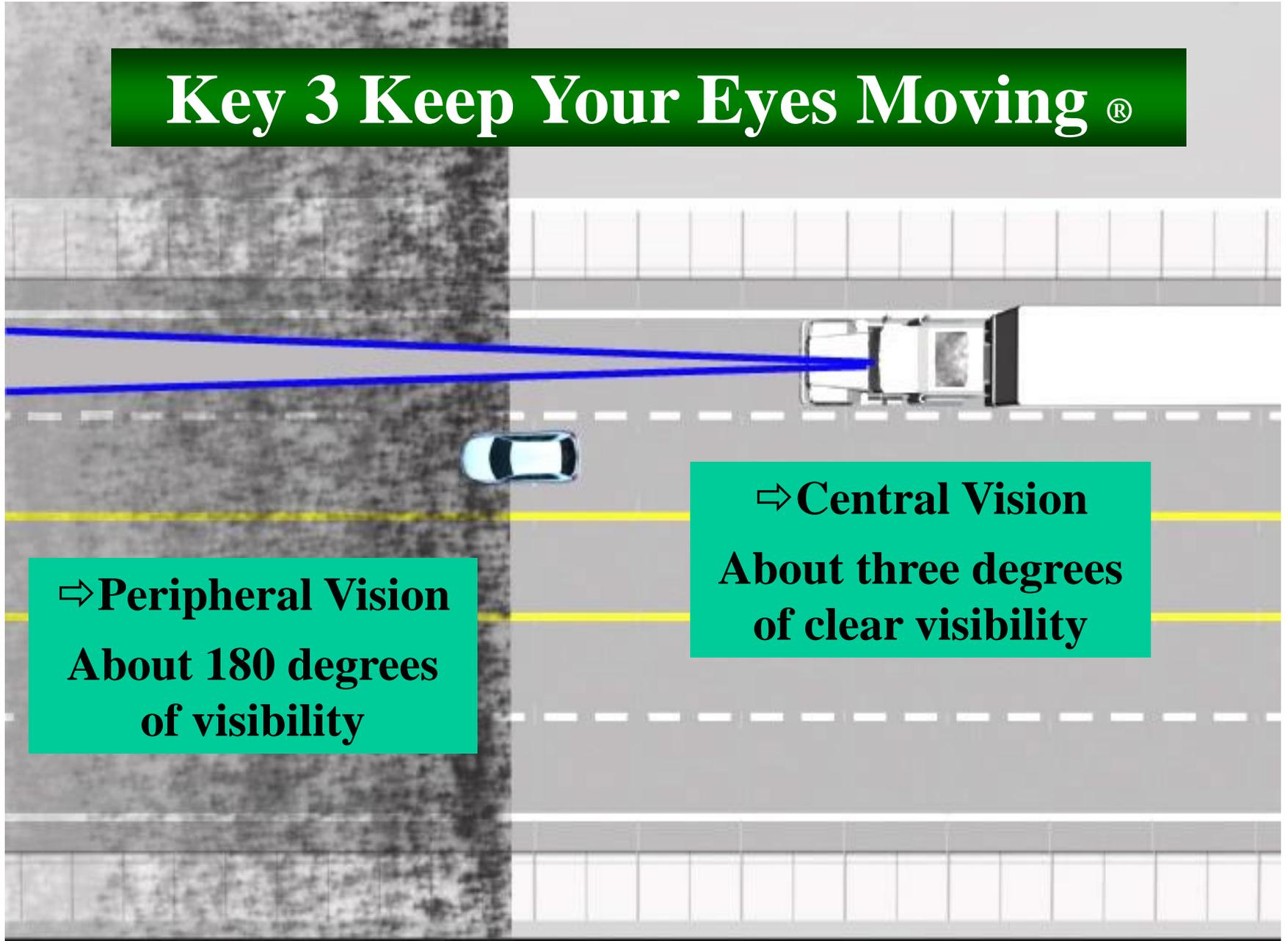
⇒ Position your vehicle so you can see

⇒ 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

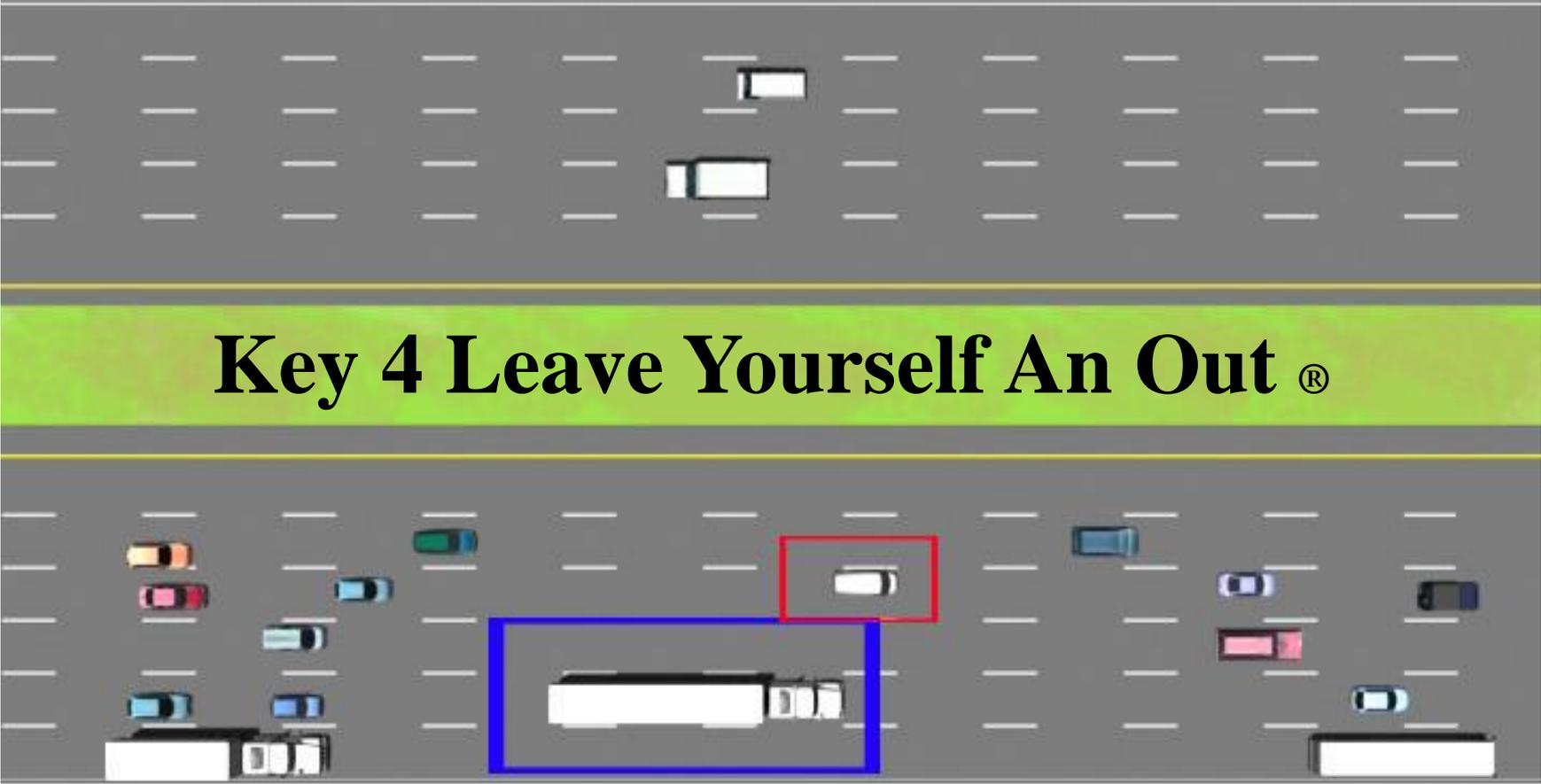


Key 3 Keep Your Eyes Moving ®



⇒ 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



**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**

An aerial view of a building and parking lot. The building is a large, dark grey structure with two blue rectangular windows. To the left of the building are several palm trees. In front of the building is a parking lot with several cars and a large white truck. To the right of the building is a loading dock area with several white trucks parked. The text 'Key 1 Aim High In Steering' is overlaid on the building. Two callout boxes with arrows point to specific areas: one points to the loading dock area and the other points to the parking lot area.

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

⇒ Cushion your vehicle with space

Key 4 Leave
Yourself An Out[®]



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*