

Smith System Of Defensive Driving

5 – Keys

1. Aim High in Steering

Look 15 seconds into your future. (Don't just look at the vehicle in front of you)

2. Get the Big Picture

Look for Hazards. (Other Motorists, Pedestrians, Vehicle doors opening)

3. Keep Your Eyes Moving

Don't stare. (Use your peripheral vision)(Stop the fixed habit stare)

4. Leave Yourself an Out

Monitor the space cushion around you and your bike.

5. Make sure They See You

Use your signals- (Directionals, 4-Way Flashers, Head Lights, Brake Lights, Horn, Hand Signals) Make Eye Contact.

Defensive Driving Characteristics

The five characteristics of defensive driving are:

Knowledge

Good defensive drivers will have knowledge of the traffic laws and the basics about their vehicles, such as how the brake system operates and how to read gauges and lights on the dash.

Alertness

Good defensive drivers are alert to what is going on around them. They are well rested and would never take any drugs or alcohol that could affect their concentration before driving a vehicle.

Anticipation

Defensive drivers anticipate what may or may not happen, and they take action to avoid many problems. They anticipate potential hazards from other motorists, pedestrians, weather and equipment and take steps to minimize the risk.

Judgment

Good defensive drivers do not make risky maneuvers like trying to beat red lights. They don't try to pass unless it's safe and they look for alternatives to any traffic situation.

Skill

Good defensive drivers have the technical skills to operate the vehicle safely through traffic without endangering anyone else on the road. They can handle the vehicle even in hazardous conditions.

Intersections

One of the most dangerous areas in any road is the intersection. Cross traffic, turning vehicles and pedestrians can make getting across an intersection dangerous.

Many intersection accidents occur when drivers fail to use their turn signals or don't know the right-of-way laws. Aggressive drivers will try to beat the red light and speed dangerously through an intersection.

Using defensive driving techniques can be summarized in the phase: "Know, Show, Slow, Go".

Know

Know who has the right-of-way, but never insist on the right-of-way.

Show

Communicate your intentions to other drivers. Use your turn signals, Signals, brake lights and vehicle movement.

Slow

When approaching an intersection, you need to slow down and be Prepared to stop.

Go

Verify that the intersection is free of vehicles and pedestrians; then go safely.

REMEMBER:

The vehicle or pedestrian in the intersection always has the right-of-way, even if the traffic light is green