



VISUAL SEARCH

PROCEDURES FOR VISUAL SEARCH

BASIC PROCEDURES: You need to know what is going on around you, in front, behind, left, and right.

LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD: Look ahead when driving down the road. For a professional driver carrying thousands of pounds of forest products, procedures for seeing ahead and scanning are extremely important for safe maneuverability.

HOW FAR AHEAD: It is recommended you keep a look out at least 12 to 15 seconds ahead. When you are traveling on the highway this means about a quarter of a mile and in slower urban areas approximately two to three blocks. If you fail to keep a lookout that far ahead, you may be forced to make a quick stop, or an unsafe last-minute maneuver.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Scanning will help you identify drivers who might be getting ready to change lanes or pass another vehicle. Seeing their visual communications ahead of time will alert you of their intentions. Watch for drivers up ahead who tap their brake lights or signal a lane change. Watch for drivers entering the highway, which might cause you to shift lanes to avoid overwhelming them. By seeing these things in advance, you can change your speed or change lanes, if necessary, to avoid a problem.

TIME TO AVOID PROBLEMS: Utilizing good searching skills will help you see potential problems on the horizon. This will give you enough time to alter your driving path

SEARCHING FOR HAZARDS AND CRITICAL OBJECTS

THE HAZARDS VARY: Hazards can lead to emergencies, so identifying hazards quickly will save you, and those traveling around you from a potential emergency. When identifying a hazard or critical object, think “what’s the worst that could happen?” then act accordingly. A hazard can present itself in the form of potentially dangerous things such as weather conditions, other drivers, bicyclists, road conditions, traffic conditions or pedestrians.

SEEING THE HAZARDS EARLY: Scanning ahead 12 to 15 seconds can help you identify potential problems to react accordingly. Some of those unforeseen problems can present themselves in the form of animals, heavy traffic, vehicles, debris, workers in the road, accidents, or any stopped vehicle on the side of the road.

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN YOUR MIRRORS? It is important to see what is going on to the sides and the rear of your tractor trailer, so check your mirrors about every four seconds.

ADJUST YOUR MIRRORS: The position of your mirrors is critical to accurately see what is happening to the left, right and behind your rig. Mirrors should be kept clean and in good working order. Be aware of your vehicle’s blind spots. As a professional driver it is your responsibility to check and adjust your mirrors before heading out on a trip. Perform these adjustments before hitting the roadway when your trailer is parked in a straight position. Your mirrors should be positioned to give you a clear view of the key parts of your tractor trailer. When you work in the woods, the chances of your mirrors get knocked out of position by falling debris are high. Make it a habit to check your mirrors before leaving the job site.

WHY DO A MIRROR SWEEP? Once on the road, quickly look back and forth from your mirrors then to the road ahead of you. Conducting a mirror sweep keeps you informed as to what is going on with your vehicle, traffic, and pedestrians.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR? Use your mirrors to keep an eye on your tires and cargo. Look for loose straps, chains, tarps, or any other object that could become a danger to you or others around you.

LONGER LOOKS: Your mirrors will also be used in situations that require more than one quick mirror sweep. For example, lane changes. You will need to make sure you have enough room to change lanes and that no other vehicles are nearby. Other examples, but not limited to are turns, merges, and tight maneuvers. Use your mirrors as tools for safely moving your rig.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE DISTRACTED PEDESTRIANS

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS: Identifying people who seem distracted can help you to prevent an accident. When you see a pedestrian or crew member with their back towards you, assume they are unaware of you. They may have tiny earphones in their ears, unaware of what’s happening around them. As the professional, it is your job to recognize the hazards around you. Identifying distracted people is one of your responsibilities.

Team Safe Trucking’s mission is to reduce accidents through enhanced driver training and effective fleet management and to recruit new, safety-focused drivers to deliver a sustainable and profitable supply chain.



VISUAL SEARCH CONT.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE DISTRACTED PEDESTRIANS CONT.

DO THEY MAKE EYE CONTACT? There are times when people are angry or upset that they may not even see the object they are looking at. Their mind is totally somewhere else. Pay close attention to workers, talkers, shoppers, or crowds gathered for a specific purpose. People celebrating and under the influence, can do unpredictable things so take extra caution. Areas with a higher volume of traffic usually have a high volume of pedestrians. Use scanning skills to identify these areas, then slow down ahead of time.

LOOK FOR CHILDREN: Areas where children are traditionally present can be a serious hazard. Places such as schools, playgrounds, and gyms should alert you immediately of potential danger. Children very seldom think before they act, so slowing down and scanning with extreme caution can help prevent an accident. Always view children as a hazard when they are anywhere near your rig in public or on the job. It is wise to go even slower than the speed limit.

APPROACHING ACCIDENT SCENES: When you are approaching the scene of an accident, be aware that pedestrians may be running to the aid of other people. In those moments of rushing adrenaline and high stress, bystanders may be so focused on helping others, that they will unknowingly forgo their own safety, putting themselves in harm's way. Watch them for erratic movements.

MOVE-OVER LAWS: These laws are designed to keep you and roadside pedestrians safe. Know the laws of the state you are working in. When you see a vehicle on the side of the road, change lanes as soon as safely possible. If you find you cannot "move-over", slow down and proceed with the utmost of caution.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE DISTRACTED DRIVERS

BE ON THE LOOK OUT: Watch for vehicles switching from lane to lane and watch for vehicles speeding up and slowing down. Look for drivers that are preoccupied with something inside their vehicle such as food, cell phones, cigarettes, applying makeup or any other activity.

SLOW DRIVERS ARE A HAZARD: Driving slowly can be just as much of a hazard as driving fast. Use caution because more times than not, the drivers could be timid or frightened to be on the road. They might be startled by your presence.

IMPAIRED DRIVERS: An impaired driver is anyone who is not driving at full capacity. They may be impaired because of sleepiness, excessive alcohol, drugs or some health crisis or illness.

SIGNS OF IMPAIRED DRIVERS: To identify an impaired driver, look for someone weaving or drifting, speeding up then slowing down, tapping their brakes erratically, and slowing at a green light.

CONFLICT ON THE ROAD: There are areas in your travels where chances of conflict are higher than others, such as merging onto highways, crowded intersections, slow moving or stopped traffic. Scanning ahead can reduce your chances of experiencing conflict whether it is your own or dealing with someone else's.

KEEP SAFE OUT THERE! Deaths from distracted driving increase every year. Another driver's distracted driving can cause you to become a distracted driver yourself. Recognizing the hazard of a distracted driver and avoiding a conflict by moving away can keep you from becoming a victim of distracted driving.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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