

B.D.R. Safety Consulting Inc.



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S.I.P.D.E. Looking for trouble

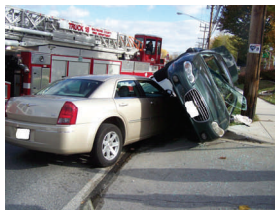
Defensive driving is an exercise of seeing and being seen. However, not everyone will be able to see you. Not all drivers will be paying attention to others that may become potential hazards on the road. Therefore, the responsibility of looking for trouble may be left to you.

By using the S.I.P.D.E method, defensive drivers have an advantage in being able to recognize and deal with hazards that may come up during their drive.

S.I.P.D.E. simply stands for:

- S: Search for real or potential hazards. Look around for danger.
- I: Identify hazards that may be present and that could come in conflict within your path.
- P: Predict what the driver of the other vehicle might do. Will they stop or go through that stop sign?
- D: Decide on what action you will have to take to deal with the potential hazard that now faces you.
- E: Execute the action you just decided on. If that action was to change lanes, make sure that the movement can be made safely.

Failure to look well ahead results in reduced reaction time in attempting to avoid a collision.



At a speed of 90 km/h your vehicle travels a distance of 25m per second. That means that for every 4 seconds that pass by, you will travel the entire length of a football field.

If we brake hard without ABS activation or lock up, a vehicle traveling at 90 km/h will take approximately 45m to stop. This is strictly braking distance. If we add in a 1 second recognition time (time for your brain to understand what it has just perceived) and a 1 second reaction time (time for your motor skills to take over and your foot to move from the accelerator to the brake pedal), the total stopping distance becomes 95m.

So, how far ahead should I be looking?

Most defensive driving programs will say a minimum of 12 to 15 seconds ahead. That is a MINIMUM.

You should always try to look as far as you can see.

12 to 15 seconds in the city, which is around 50 km/h, is approximately one city block. Is that really far enough? On the highway or the freeway, where speeds generally attain 110+ km/h, that is only 4 power poles away.

If that deer decides to cross the road, are you prepared for it? Will you have enough time and space to avoid it?

Using S.I.P.D.E. will certainly assist you in recognizing the dangers that may cross your path and assist you in making a timely decision to avoid it.

Remember, it is not how fast you get there, but whether or not you make it there intact.

Drive Safe.

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