

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

Use good sense, keep alert and drive defensively.

Five Keys to Defensive Driving - the "Smith System"

A way to remember this five-part system is to remember the phrase, **All Good Kids Like Milk**.

1. **Aim High in Steering:** Look ahead at least 1-1½ blocks in urban areas or ¼ mile at high speeds. Aiming high keeps you on a straighter path than simply checking in the immediate area in front of you.
2. **Get the Big Picture:** Seek movement of others and anticipate the worst. Drivers may not stop where expected. Assess the potential risks around you - in front, behind, sides and instrument panel.
3. **Keep Eyes Moving:** Check your mirrors every 3-5 seconds. Reduce highway hypnosis and fixed stares by focusing ahead, behind, side-to-side and internally.
4. **Leave Yourself an Out:** Time lights (stale green), flashing "Don't Walk" signs and other traffic to blend and flow more smoothly. If you do have to stop, think ahead and maintain space. Keep both hands on the wheel to maintain control, be prepared and avoid surprises.
5. **Make Sure They See You:** Communicate with people in other vehicles through:
 - Vehicle position
 - Vehicle condition
 - Lights
 - Horn
 - Sign language

General Checklist

1. Know where you are going.
2. Watch where you are walking.
3. Move around obstructions, not over them.
4. Use handrails when on stairs.
5. Use the proper shoe for the anticipated hazard.
6. Avoid jumping from level to level; use steps or ladders.
7. Inspect your ladder prior to use.
8. Use fall protection when required.
9. Only rock in a rocking chair.

Thought Provokers

1. What do other drivers do that irritate you?
2. How do you respond to those actions?
3. What would a defensive driver do in order to avoid a crash?
4. What things get in our way and prevent us from using the Smith System?