

Safe Driving



DECISION DRIVING®: SIZE UP THE WHOLE SCENE

Decision Driving® is about having all the information you need to make good driving decisions. You need to pay close attention to everything you see and hear around you. You need to size up the whole scene; be aware of what's going on in front of, beside and behind your vehicle.

Some typical situations that may present trouble include children playing near the road, erratic drivers, brake lights on the vehicle ahead, parked vehicles blocking your view, sirens or emergency vehicles with flashing lights, construction zones or congested areas. By constantly sizing up the whole scene, you give

yourself time to react to the situation and avoid a crash.

The following techniques will help you size up the whole scene:

- Scan ahead a few blocks from building front to building front during city driving
- Pay attention to areas around and under parked vehicles
- Observe as much as you can of approaching intersections, driveways and parking lots
- When entering an intersection look left, right and left again to ensure it's clear
- Check your rearview mirrors at least every five to 10 seconds, especially on multi-lane highways
- Scan as wide an area as possible when driving in open country
- Watch for vehicles on the road's shoulder as they could pull back onto the road without looking

By constantly sizing up the whole scene, you maintain an awareness of everything going on around your vehicle. This helps you adjust for the mistakes of others and provide the time and space you need to avoid crashes.

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