

# Safe Trucking



## DECISION DRIVING®: SIZE UP THE WHOLE SCENE

Decision Driving® is about having all the information you need to make good driving decisions. As a professional truck driver, you know you must pay close attention to everything you see and hear around your truck. 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.
- When you must make a wide right turn, go slowly and watch for vehicles trying to pass you on the right.
- Check your rearview mirrors at least every five to 10 seconds—especially on multi-lane highways. Ensure your mirrors are properly adjusted to reduce the blind spots.
- Always track and be aware of vehicles in the “No-Zone” around your truck.
- Scan as wide an area as possible when driving in open country.
- Watch for vehicles on the road's shoulders 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 truck. This helps you adjust for the mistakes of others and provide the time and space you need to avoid crashes.

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