



MCIWEST-MCB CAMP PENDLETON

2015 Critical Days of Summer Newsletter

Week 2

Drive Safety



Five Principles of Safe Driving From Smith System

(From Lytx's Newsletter for the United States Marines Corps)

Make the roads a safe place by employing the same methods we use with our drivers. The Smith System states that following these five rules can dramatically reduce the risk of major accidents on highways and roads.

1. Aim High.

The first rule for this method is "Aim high in steering". Staying alert of the dangers and traffic ahead not only avoids rear-end collisions, but it also alerts other drivers behind your vehicle to slow down. The driver should steer and focus their attention high, so as to view the road as whole and not just a few feet ahead.

2. The Big Picture.

"Be aware of your surroundings at all times" may seem obvious to say, but distracted drivers are just as dangerous as intoxicated ones. Erratic and angry drivers take up a large portion of the traffic we see daily, so avoid major accidents by noticing how other drivers behave on the road. Having the whole picture means that you are doing your part to keep your vehicle as safe as possible while moving 1000ft a second. There are a variety of hazards between your own vehicle and other drivers, and a keen awareness of these dangers will reduce these risks.

3. Keep Your Eyes Moving.

The third standard of the Smith System asks drivers to remain alert. Energy drinks can only do so much before they cause the body to crash, and any repetitive motion sends us into a trance. Consistent eye movement prevents your body from entering the trance state, keeping you alert to every driving condition ahead of you.

Commanding General's Safety Hotline: (760)763-7233



4. Leave Yourself an Out.

The fourth principle of the Smith System states to leave you a way out. This means ensure that other drivers do not box you in while selecting their lanes. Do not follow other vehicles too closely, and always anticipate what choices other drivers make.

5. Make Sure They See You.

The worst thing a driver can do is assume. Assume other drivers can see them, assume other drivers are not dangerous, or even assume that they will just get to their destination safely. The final rule for the Smith System is “Make Sure You Are Seen”. This rule prevents accidents by removing assumptions made behind the wheel. As a driver, make sure that other drivers can see you and anticipate your move. If you feel you are coming into another driver’s blind spot, use the horn to get their attention.



Dangers in the Parking Lot

(From Drive Cam’s Newsletter for the United States Marines Corps)

You may be surprised to learn that more vehicle incidents occur per mile driven in parking lots than on public roadways. Often these are low speed incidents involving backing or impact with fixed objects. The repair cost is typically relatively low and the events often go unreported, but the frequency is high. Parking lot and parking related collisions may represent twenty-five to fifty percent of a fleet’s collision total.

There are several reasons so many incidents occur in parking lots. Here are a few:

- Drivers understand the risks are high while on the roadway, but few recognize risks remain high once off the roadway. Many drivers drop their guard and become less vigilant once they turn off the street and into a parking lot.
- Upon entering the lot, drivers are usually focused on seeking a parking spot...not looking for other drivers and objects.
- Most drivers pull “head in” into a parking spot. Once in this position, they must then back out. The natural blind areas behind most vehicles, combined with vision obstruction due to vehicles parked alongside, make visibility very difficult.



Workplace Humor

Protect your hands; you need them to pick up your pay check

Picture of the Week



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