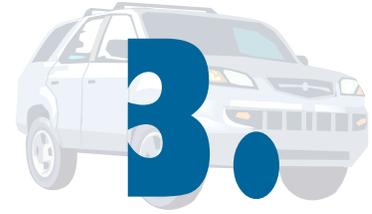


Scanning with your Eyes

SMARTdriving Series



Eye movement is the key to getting and keeping your traffic picture. When your vehicle is moving, your eyes should also keep moving. Although we generally move our eyes, there are times when we become so absorbed in an object that they don't move. This fixed stare causes us to lose our traffic picture.

Be an inquisitive driver. Find out what's in every part of your traffic picture. If you ignore any part, you open a hole in your awareness, and your defense; that can lead to an accident.

Traffic moves, therefore; your traffic picture is on the move, too. You, as a driver, are in the middle of this complex traffic environment that usually offers many quick changes. You must be aware of all changes that can become a conflict. The way you get and keep your traffic picture is to maintain good eye activity.

Our fringe vision allows us to detect objects over a wide area, much like a wide-angle lens on a camera. Your fringe vision is an early-warning system to detect trouble ahead or to the sides. Clear vision allows us to make positive identifications.

A fixed stare stops the eye-moving action necessary to get and keep the traffic picture. Many things attract a fixed stare. It may be an attractive person, display or an advertisement. Even the siren and lights from emergency vehicles can slow or stop eye activity.

Scanning with your Eyes Objectives:

- Keep eyes moving at least every two seconds and check to the rear every five to eight seconds.
- Check to the rear before changing lanes, turning or stopping.
- Stay clear of erratic drivers.
- Check in all directions and leave a space cushion before starting up at intersections.
- Dispose of eye-holding distractions quickly.

For additional information, visit <http://itd.idaho.gov/dmv/>

