

IV. PERCEPTUAL DRIVING FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Lessons and Hints to Work With Your New Teen Driver

Part 4



Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Responsible

Lessons and Hints to Work With Your New Teen Driver

- This resource is based on a behind the wheel program that is used by trained driver education teachers.

Purpose :

- to give adults supervising practice driving with a teen driver, an orderly, standard routine.
- To provide objectives and methods similar to those used by in-car driving instructors that may:
 - reduce stressful situations for adult and teen.
 - reduce risk by allowing the teen driver to gradually progress through skill levels and driving environments.

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THE FIRST ROLE MODEL FOR DRIVING

Who are:

- The first drivers that a new teen driver has been exposed to in real life?
- The drivers whose habits (good and bad) have been observed, scrutinized, and absorbed by a teen driver over a period of years?



ROLE MODEL FOR DRIVING

Who is:

- a reflection of you and your driving habits?
- influenced most by your actions?

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Your teen driver

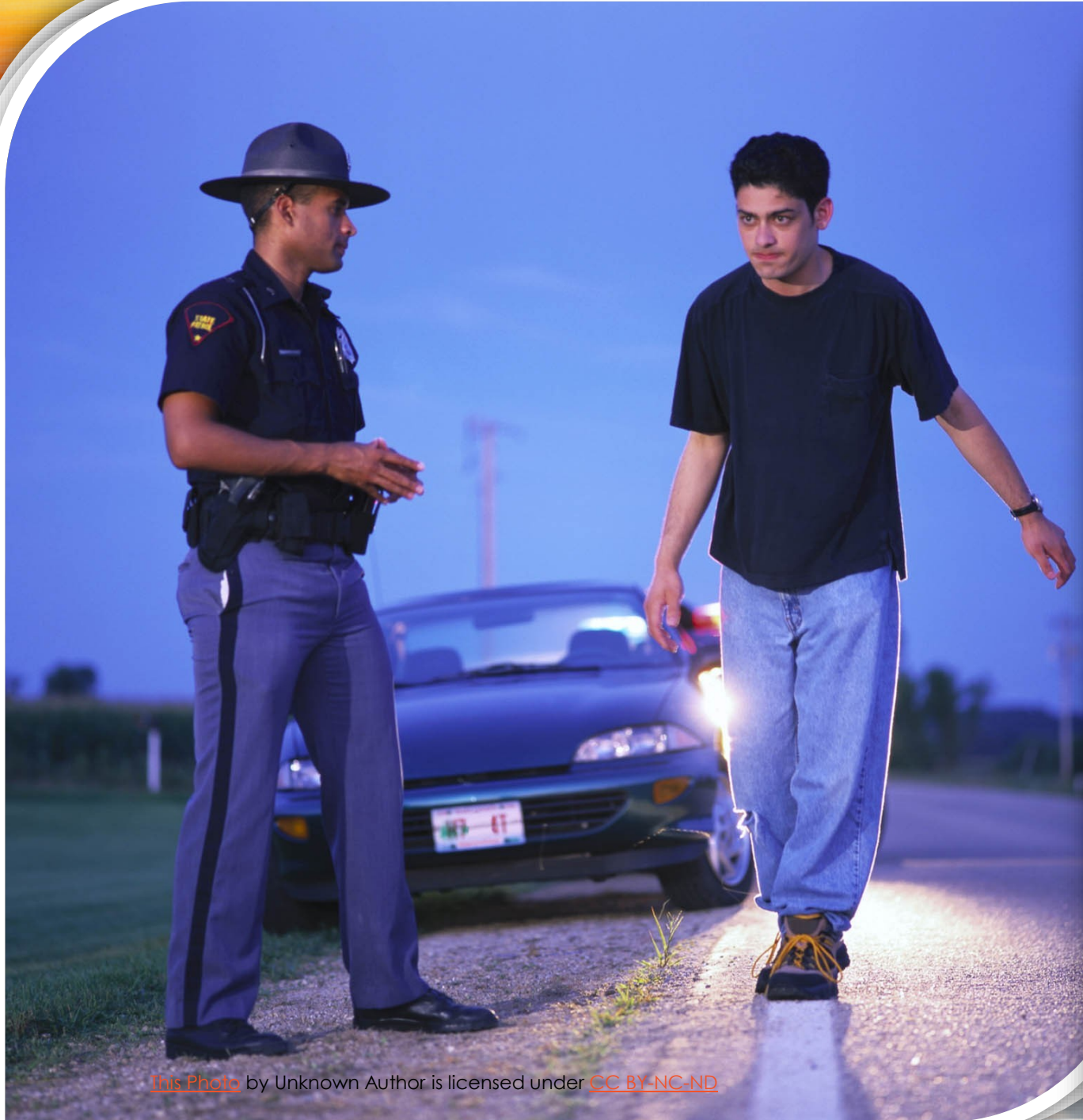
ROLE MODEL FOR DRIVING

- New drivers learn by example
- Identify your behaviors
 - habits
 - poor=change
 - good=keep
 - decision making



They are
watching

They've
always
been
watching



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They've
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watching

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GOALS OF THE PROGRAM



Learn effective and efficient perceptual driving skills

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Learn how to make proper responses to problem traffic situations once they are identified and evaluated

Stated Reasons for Collisions

- “I Didn’t See”
 (“ I Wasn’t Paying Attention”)
- “I Didn’t See In Time”
- “I Didn’t Think He Would Do It”
 (“I Didn’t Know What to Do”)

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TEEN CRASH ERRORS

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Teen Drivers are over-represented in crashes involving these driving maneuvers

1. Driving on wet pavements
2. Distractions from passengers
3. Pulling out from a STOP sign
4. Left turns across traffic
5. Keeping a safe space margin between vehicles
6. Negotiating curves
7. Maintaining vehicle control (speeding)
8. Changing lanes and passing

COMMON ERRORS MADE BY DRIVERS WITH POOR SCANNING HABITS:

- Does not react to problems promptly;
- Fails to maintain space margins;
- Has frequent near misses...is not aware of own speed;
- Is not aware of vehicle about to pass;
- Is easily distracted and fatigued;
- Drives with signals flashing when not needed; and
- Drives with fogged or partially blocked windows.

PERCEPTION

Can Be Improved With Directed Practice

We can learn to improve the perceptual process

Perceptions improve with training and practice.

- **Knowing:**
 - **What to look for, and what may happen**
 - **When to look, and where**
 - **Where to look, and when**

Experience and practice will make the process more efficient

HABITS TO IMPROVE PERCEPTION

Three habits can help improve the ability to perceive traffic events



1. Use Efficient Eye Habits

2. In an Organized Search Pattern

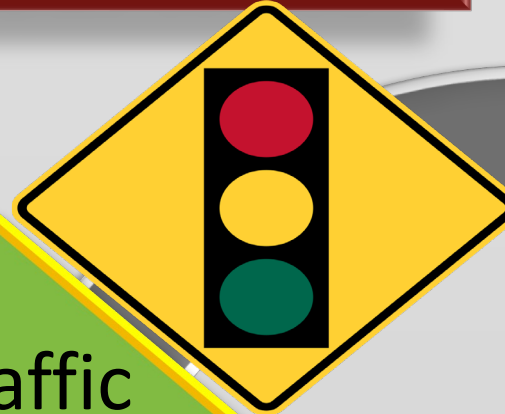
3. To Search for Conflict Situations

HABITS TO IMPROVE PERCEPTION

- Use a **SYSTEMATIC SEARCH PATTERN.**

- Search in meaningful groups

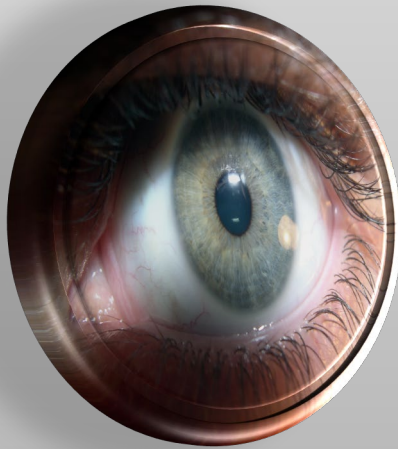
1. Traffic Controls



2. Highway Conditions



3. Other Users



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Search Systems & Processes

SIPDE

S I

Search:

20-30 sec.
ahead

Identify:

Conditions and
hazards 10-15
sec. ahead

P D

Predict:

The level of
risks

Decide:

Actions that need
to be taken in 4-5
sec.

E

**Execute
your
decision**

Habits to Improve Perception

Eye Habits for Vehicle Control

- Picture a safe, clear path of travel to a target on the road...far ahead.
- Usually down the middle of your lane to where you want the car to go.
- Steer to your target.
- Pick a new target and path when the view opens to a new clear area



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PROJECTED
PATH OF
TRAVEL

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EYE HABITS FOR VEHICLE CONTROL-PATH OF TRAVEL

- Multiple Targets
- Targets change with vehicle movement
- Eyes move ahead with the vehicle - Don't stare at one spot



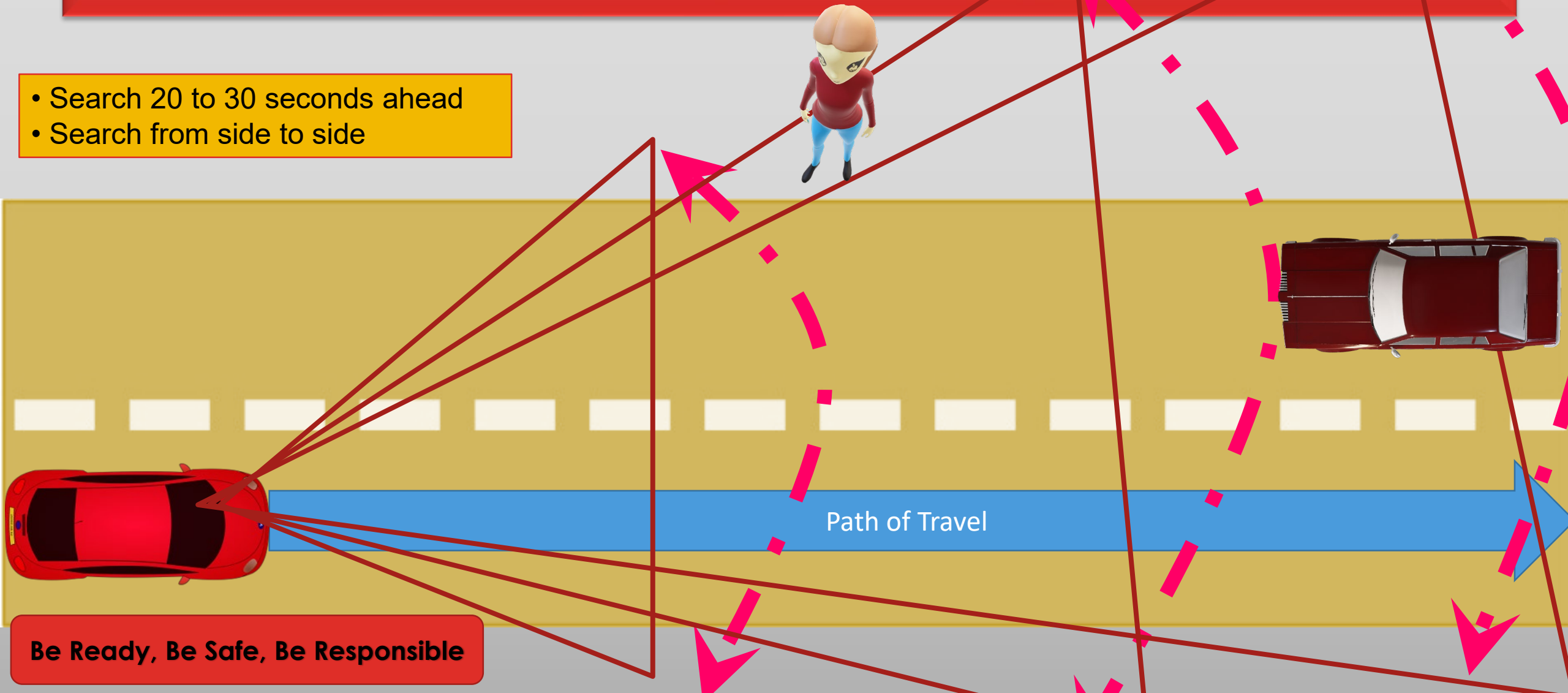
EYE HABITS FOR VEHICLE CONTROL-PATH OF TRAVEL

-DON'T STARE at hazard spots!
Always look to the **OPEN** path in the middle of your lane and steer to it.



SCAN THE SCENE AHEAD

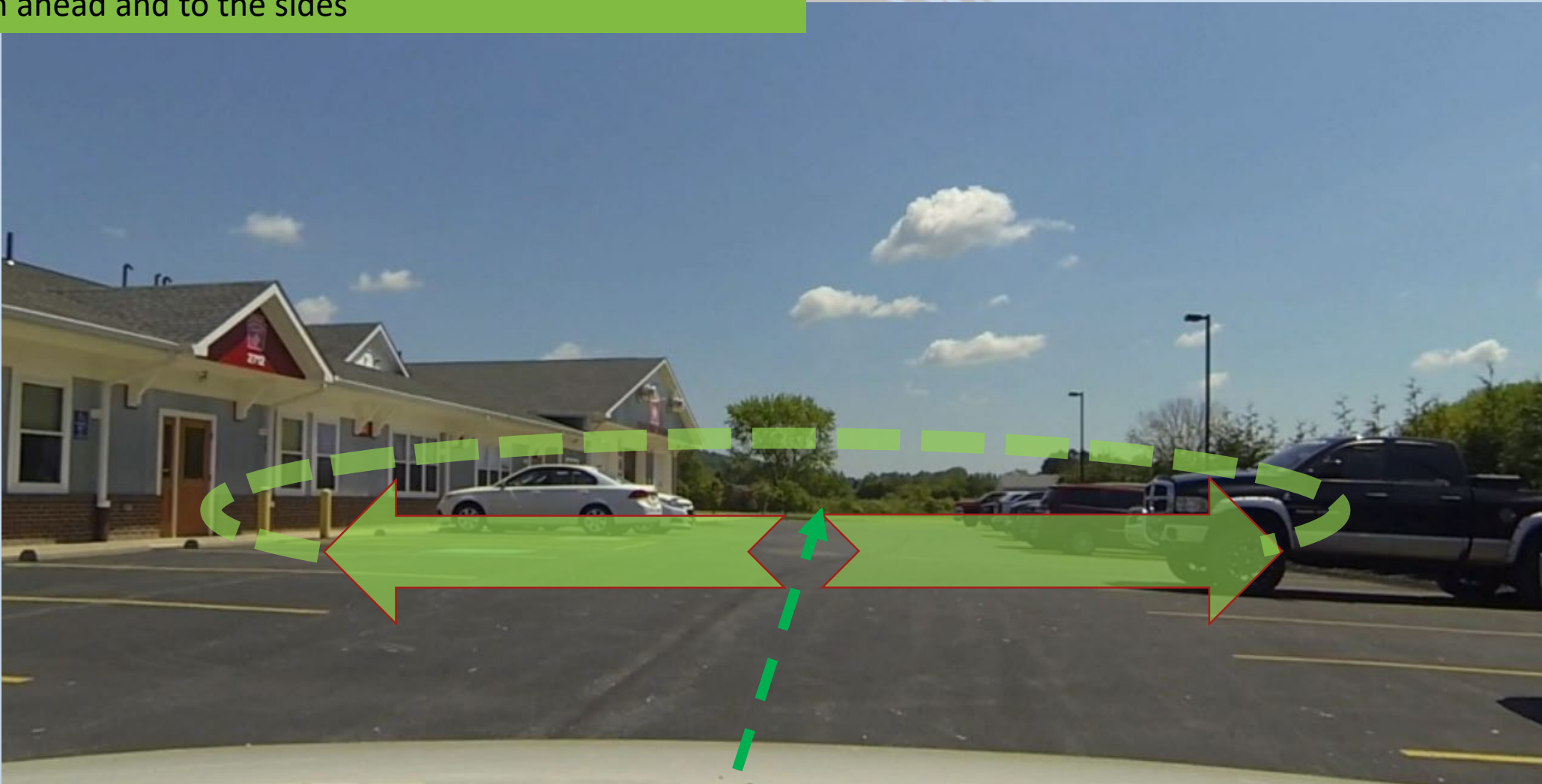
- Search 20 to 30 seconds ahead
- Search from side to side



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SEARCH HABITS FOR IDENTIFICATION

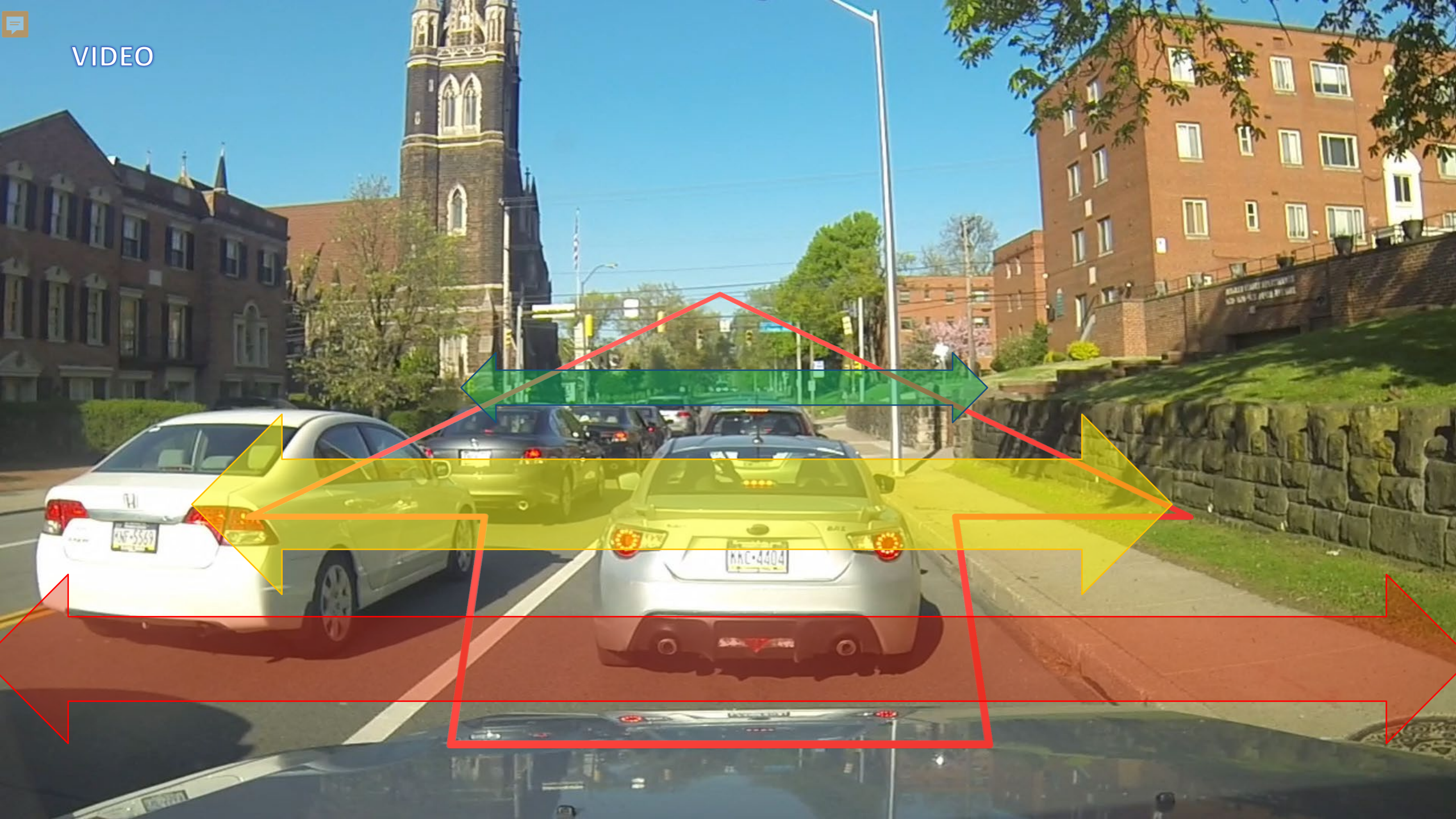
Search ahead and to the sides



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VIDEO



Habits to Improve Perception

Scan the Road Surface

- To detect changes in direction
- To assess speed of other cars
- To check for pedestrians between parked cars



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SCAN MIRRORS AND DASH

Risk From Behind

- **Check Inside and Outside Mirrors**

Not every hazard is in front of you. There are hazards approaching from behind and to the sides. Search routine to the rear.



Vehicle Awareness

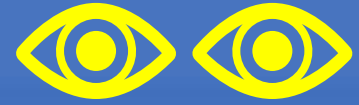
- **Check Dash Regularly**

You need to be aware of the car's speed and any mechanical problems while driving. Search routine to your dash.



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SCAN MIRRORS AND DASH



Time These Checks To:

Critical situations and specific maneuvers

- Slowing and stopping
- Any lane change – Before and After
- Approaching and exiting an intersection

Also:

- While stopped
- More often in heavy traffic
- Passing zones and multiple lane roadways

Routine:

- Check dash when you see a speed limit sign
- or after you check the rear view mirror



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This series was produced by the Novice Driver Statewide Program and the IUP Institute for Rural Health and Safety through a grant from the PA Highway Safety Office

Videos and Photos: IRHS/NDSP

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