



SAFETY MINUTES FOR : *DRIEVERS*

I NEVER SAW HIM!

The eyes faithfully send impressions back to the brain the same way a camera records all the details of a scene on the film. But even though the brain receives every detail of information that comes through the eyes, it is very selective in what it uses. The brain ignores everything except those items that are meaningful to it and have some bearing on the immediate situation. For example, when you are driving, your eyes will tell your brain that the sky is blue, the grass is green, there is an airplane off in the distance, the on-coming cars are green, blue, black, etc.

Even though all this is being fed in, your brain does not want to concern itself with all these details. What it is really interested in is what color the traffic light up ahead might be, whether the car coming toward you through an intersection is slowing down or speeding up, or if the pedestrian up ahead might step off the curb into the path of your vehicle. Through experience and training you have learned these are some of the things that are extremely important while driving. This is where a lot of us get into trouble.

The good driver knows he must keep his eyes moving - that he can not afford to stare at any one fixed point for more than a second or two. He knows that the faster he drives, the farther down the road he must look. He knows it is important to check his outside rear view mirrors every 3-10 seconds. His eyes are constantly moving - staying on one scene for only a second or two and then moving to another. Left, front, right - front, left, front, right, etc..

Good driving begins with good seeing habits. Seeing habits have to be developed through training and experience if we are going to stay accident free while driving.

The good driver knows what to look for and how to use his eyes properly so nothing important is missed. Then, his brain receives and processes the information he actually needs to direct him safely in traffic.

The brain works like a computer. If you put the right information in, the right way, you will get back the right answers.

KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING !



INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

SUBJECT: I NEVER SAW HIM !

EMPLOYEES: DRIVERS

INSTRUCTOR: _____

DATE: _____

After you have analyzed a number of accident reports, you find certain phrases that pop up repeatedly. One of these is, "I never saw him..." Another is, "He came out of nowhere." The sad part about these statements is that in a way they are true. But the fact that they may be true does not make them valid excuses for an accident happening. What it does mean is that the driver either did not know what to look for in the traffic stream or he was inattentive to what was going on - or, what is usually more common, he looked right at the source of danger but did not see it.

How can you look right at something and not see it? Simple! The next time you see someone look at his watch, ask him a few seconds later what time it is. Almost without fail he will look at his watch again. The first time he looked, he got only a vague impression of time in reference to some event. For example, he may have been thinking "it is not time for lunch yet", or "I have plenty of time before I need to call dispatch".

BEFORE YOUR MEETING:

Distribute copies of the Safety Minutes two to three days before your meeting.

FOR YOUR MEETING:

- 1) Rather than talk about a specific accident one of your employees may have had because they did not see the other guy (or utility pole), get them to talk about why they did not "see" the hazard. Distractions and inattention are probably the biggest culprits.
- 2) Question them about how often they should check their mirrors (every 3-10 seconds).
- 3) What sequence should they use? (Keep eyes constantly moving - left, front, right, front, etc..)
- 4) How far ahead should they scan? (Rural, 12-15 seconds; city, 2 blocks or the second light ahead).
- 5) To reinforce, repeat some of the comments in the last three or four paragraphs of the Safety Minutes.
- 6) Recommendations to management? Write down.
- 7) Advise employees of actions taken by management since last meeting.

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