



THE S.I.P.D.E. PROCESS

This process helps you to make decisions about traffic situations you encounter. The letters stand for:

S - SCAN - Actively scan the roadway a distance of 12 to 14 seconds' travel ahead, looking for signs of potential problems. Keep your eyes moving as you scan, checking the roadway from sidewalk to sidewalk, and regularly checking the situation beside and behind you for a complete picture of what's happening.

I - IDENTIFY - From out of all the information you are gathering by the scanning process, you must sift out the critical data, locating potential hazards or problems, which could affect your safety or your travel. Focus on other vehicles, pedestrians and animals, stationary and moving objects, and on traffic control devices.

P - PREDICT - Ask yourself "What if ... ?" questions about each of the potential hazards and problems you have identified. You need to know in advance what the potential paths of travel are, timing of relative vehicle movements, where and how collisions could occur, etc.

D- DECIDE - You must decide what you are going to do to avoid the conflict, reduce the impact of an event on your travel, or prevent an accident. You could decide to communicate with another driver or pedestrian with lights or horn, adjust your speed or change direction or lane to avoid conflict.

E - EXECUTE - When the time comes, you must convert your plans into actions. If the potentially hazardous situation starts to become a reality, your plan is already in place, your decision is already made, you are programmed for action. In other words, you have already reacted, and have saved the normal reaction time.

Using the S.I.P.D.E. procedure can do more than keep you out of conflicts. It can also make for a smoother trip, with fewer disruptions and interruptions. It will also be more relaxed because of the reduction of stress. By the way, this is a useful process to use in any vehicle.

