

Smith System  
Driving the 5  
Keys

**SPACE**

for the vehicle

**VISIBILITY**

for the driver

**TIME**

to make decisions

# Smith's 5 Keys

- 1- Aim High in Steering
- 2- Get the Big Picture
- 3- Keep Your Eyes Moving
- 4- Leave Yourself an Out
- 5- Make Sure They See You

## 5 Keys to Space Cushion Driving

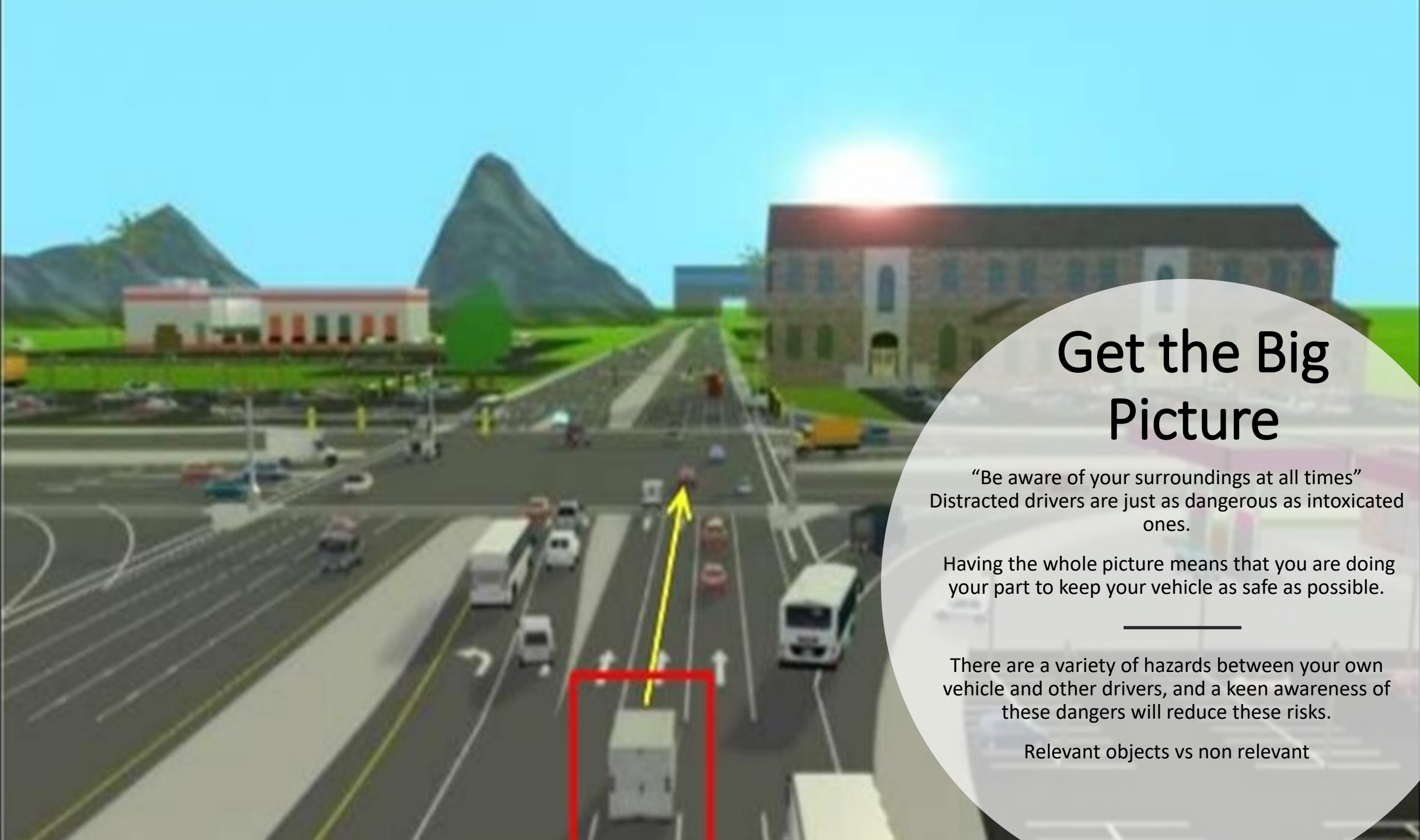


# Aim High

The first rule for this method is “Aim high in steering”.

Staying alert of the dangers and traffic ahead assist to avoid rear-end collisions.

The driver should steer and focus their attention high, so as to view the road as whole and not just a few feet ahead. Don't let the vehicle in front of you drive for you. Your eye-lead time should be-fifteen seconds.



# Get the Big Picture

“Be aware of your surroundings at all times”  
Distracted drivers are just as dangerous as intoxicated ones.

Having the whole picture means that you are doing your part to keep your vehicle as safe as possible.

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There are a variety of hazards between your own vehicle and other drivers, and a keen awareness of these dangers will reduce these risks.

Relevant objects vs non relevant



# Keep Your Eyes Moving

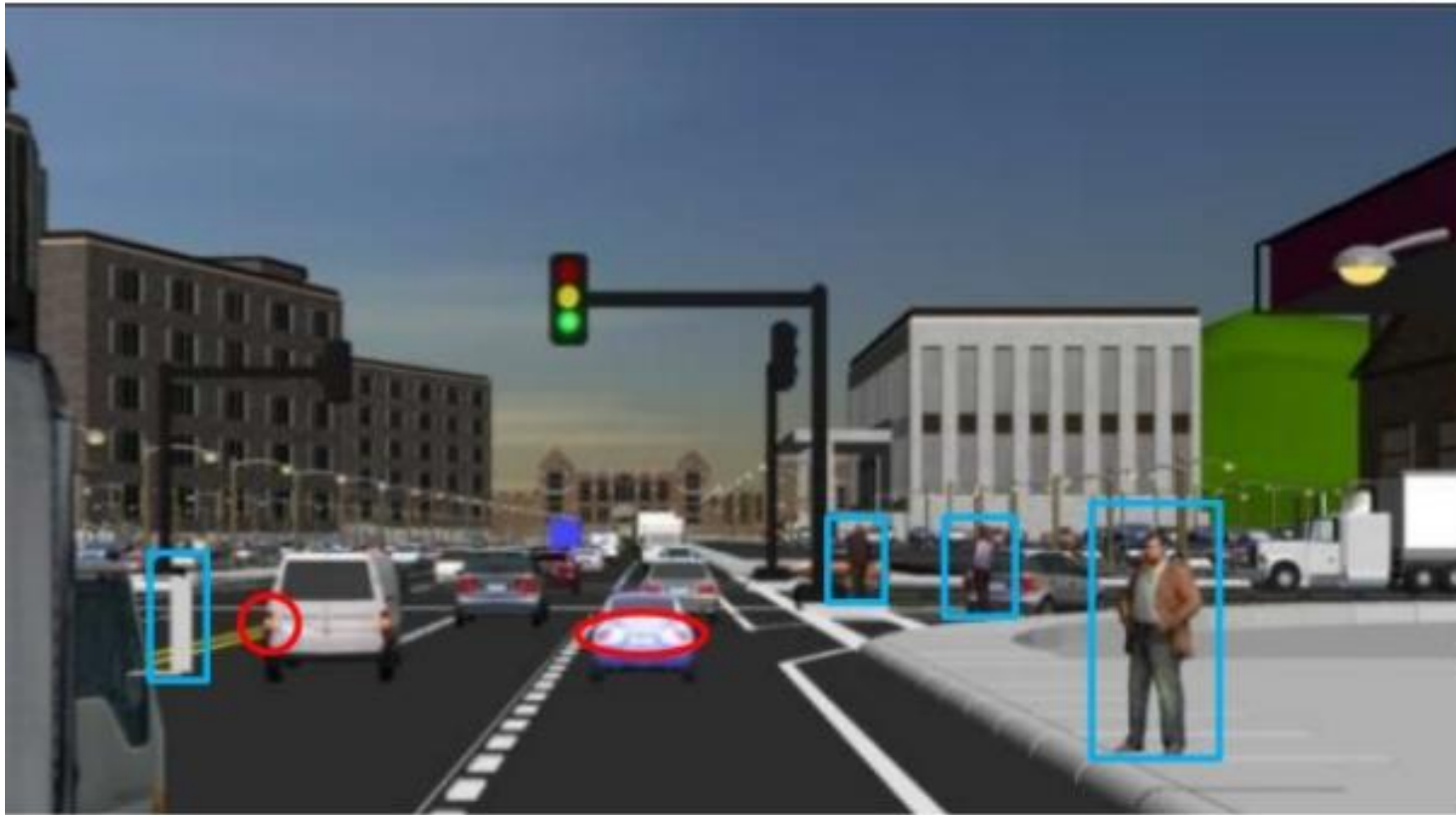
- The third standard of the Smith System asks drivers to remain alert. Repetitive motion sends us into a trance. Consistent eye movement prevents your eyes from losing peripheral vision that acts as an early alert system.
- Check mirrors every 8-9 seconds, 360 degrees of awareness, Scan roadside to roadside and watch for signs of life.
- When approaching an intersection, look left-right-left.





## Leave Yourself an Out

- The fourth principle of the Smith System states to leave yourself 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.
- Stay out of clusters, surround yourself with space,
- You should maintain a following distance of four seconds.
- When stopped, leave one car-length of space between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- Red Brake Lights Is a Red Light for You
- Upon starting up from a stop behind another vehicle, count "1-2-3-4".



Make Sure They See You\_

- The worst thing a driver can do is assume. Assume other drivers can see them is a mistake.
- 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..
- Drive with headlights on , signal at appropriate times. Use your horn, lights and signals to establish eye contact with vehicles and pedestrians. SMOG - When pulling away from a curb or shoulder or changing lanes.
- The sequence of actions taken should be : activate the left signal, look at the right mirror for hazards, look at the left mirror for hazards, and finally physically turn your head and glance over your left shoulder to clear the left side of the vehicle.





When approaching stale green lights ( that is, a green traffic light you did not actually see turn green ), establish an imaginary point-of-decision line before the light which will allow you to safely bring the vehicle to a complete stop if the light should turn yellow before you reach "the line ". If you cross the line before the light turns yellow, you should proceed through the intersection.

## Pacing Lights

## 5 Keys to Parking Lot Driving

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyd6UAqqZTw>
- 1- Aim High in Steering
- 2- Get the Big Picture
- 3- Keep Your Eyes Moving
- 4- Leave Yourself an Out
- 5- Make Sure They See You
- GOAL

