

# FIVE STEPS OF SMITH SYSTEM DRIVING

There are many types of driving systems to choose from but one of the most common is the Smith System. The Smith System is based on using five rules when operating a motor vehicle and aims to **PROVIDE SPACE, VISIBILITY AND TIME** to reduce the chance of a major accident.

**1**

## Aim High

The first principle of the Smith System is to aim high while steering. Our eyes are meant to work for us at walking speed and not the high rates of speed of motor vehicles. In order to improve eye-lead time, **you should look ahead to where you'll be about 15 seconds** into the future.

**2**

## The Big Picture

While you are looking 15 seconds ahead, you should also be scanning the sides and rear of your vehicle in order to get the full picture. **You should check at least one of your mirrors every 5-8 seconds.**

**3**

## Keep Your Eyes Moving

Consistent eye movement prevents your body from entering a trance state and allows you to remain alert by stimulating brain activity. **You should be moving our eyes every 2 seconds** and scanning all intersections before driving through them.

**4**

## Leave Yourself An Out

You should always leave yourself an out while driving. **Do not follow other vehicles too closely** and do your best to leave at least the front and one side open.

**5**

## Make Sure They See You

You should never assume another driver can see you or that they are concerned with driving safely. **Use your blinker and your horn, if necessary, to alert others of your next move.**

To learn more about driver safety, visit [centerlinedrivers.com](http://centerlinedrivers.com)