

Safety Alert

BETTER AWARENESS BEGINS WITH BETTER SCANNING

The following safety alert is another article provided by OnRoad safety magazine and provides us some guidance on driving and driving safety. Please use this as a tool in your personal lives to ensure you and your family remains safe while out on the highways.

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You can't respond to other drivers' actions unless you're aware of what they're doing — before it turns into a problem. One of the most effective ways to improve your awareness is to improve your scanning technique.

Proper scanning is much more than glancing in your rear-view mirror occasionally. It's a methodical way of continually observing your surroundings as you drive, so you know what is happening at all times.

Done correctly, scanning becomes a routine, almost subconscious part of your driving behavior: You do it all the time, automatically.

The best way to scan is to rotate through the following series of steps on a continuous basis. It should take you just 6 – 8 seconds to complete a full "sweep."

1. Scan to your left all the way out to the horizon.
2. Check your left side-view mirror.
3. Scan the area directly in front of your vehicle.
4. Scan in front of you all the way out to the horizon.
5. Check your inside rear-view mirror.
6. Scan the area directly in front of your vehicle.
7. Check your right side-view mirror.
8. Scan to your right, all the way out to the horizon.

"Remember: If you're not aware of what's happening all around you, you're just as dangerous as the other driver," Ford says.