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*Changing Driving  
Habits Since 1952*

***Smith System Driver  
Improvement Institute, Inc.***

***Arlington, TX 76006***

# ***SOME HISTORY...***

- ⇒ **Developed by Harold Smith in 1948**
- ⇒ **Established as a company in 1952**
- ⇒ **Incorporated in California in 1961**

# *We've worked with over half the Fortune 500*

⇒ *FEDEX*

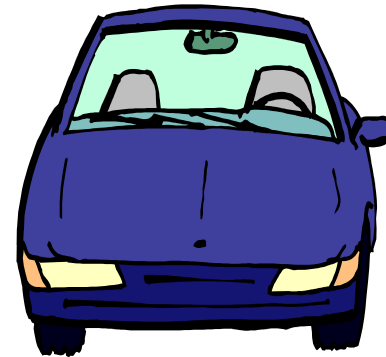
⇒ *BELLSOUTH*

⇒ *EXXONMOBIL*

⇒ *GENERAL ELECTRIC*

⇒ *JOHNSON & JOHNSON*

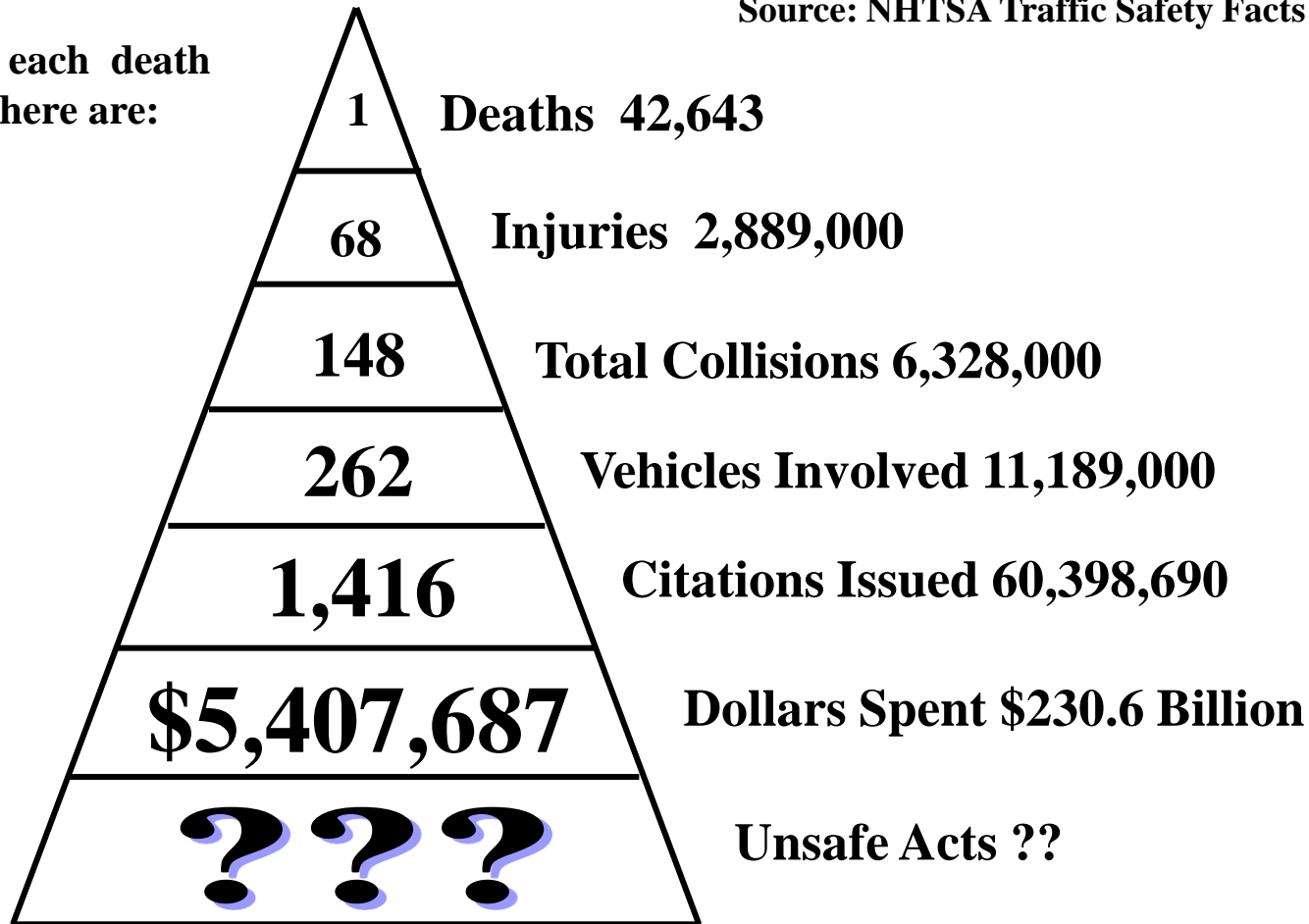
⇒ *ROADWAY EXPRESS*



# ***TRAFFIC COLLISION TRIANGLE***

Source: NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts 2003

For each death  
there are:



**Can you afford to be involved?**

# ***CAUSES OF COLLISIONS***

- ⇒ **Inattention**
- ⇒ **Impairment**
- ⇒ **Tailgating**
- ⇒ **Weather**
- ⇒ **Fatigue**
- ⇒ **Roads**
- ⇒ **Speed**
- ⇒ **Health**
- ⇒ **Attitude**
- ⇒ **Inexperience**
- ⇒ **Other Drivers**
- ⇒ **Vehicle Condition**



# ***USE OF THE 5 KEYS PROVIDES:***

- ⇒ ***SPACE for the vehicle***
- ⇒ ***VISIBILITY for the driver***
- ⇒ ***TIME to make decisions***

# ***THE BENEFITS:***

- ⇒ **Reduced Collision Potential**
- ⇒ **Reduced Fuel Usage**
- ⇒ **Reduced Maintenance**
- ⇒ **Lower Insurance Expense**
- ⇒ **Reduced Anxiety and Stress**



# ***5 KEYS OF THE SMITH SYSTEM®***

**Key 1 AIM HIGH IN STEERING®**

**Key 2 GET THE BIG PICTURE®**

**Key 3 KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING®**

**Key 4 LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT®**

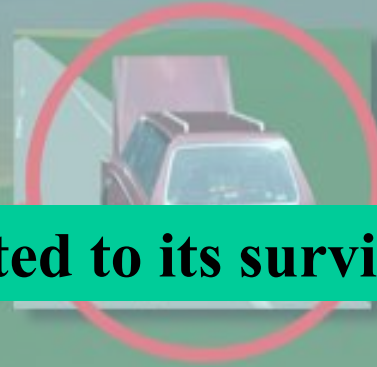
**Key 5 MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU®**

# Key 1 Aim High In Steering ®

⇒ An animal's eyesight is suited to its survival needs

⇒ Average drivers have 3 - 6 seconds of Eye Lead Time

⇒ Expand your Eye Lead to a minimum of 15 seconds

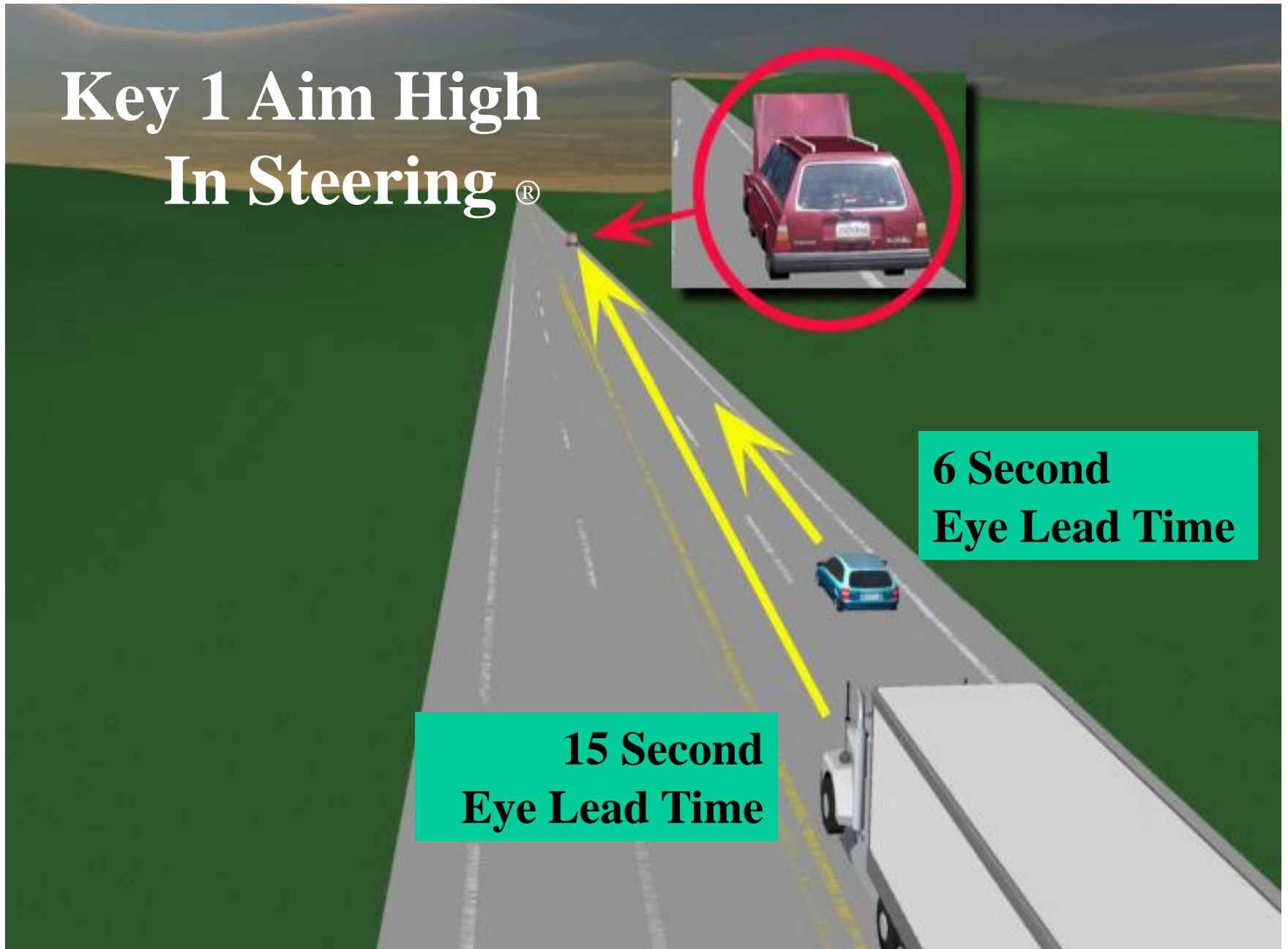


# Key 1 Aim High In Steering<sup>®</sup>



**6 Second  
Eye Lead Time**

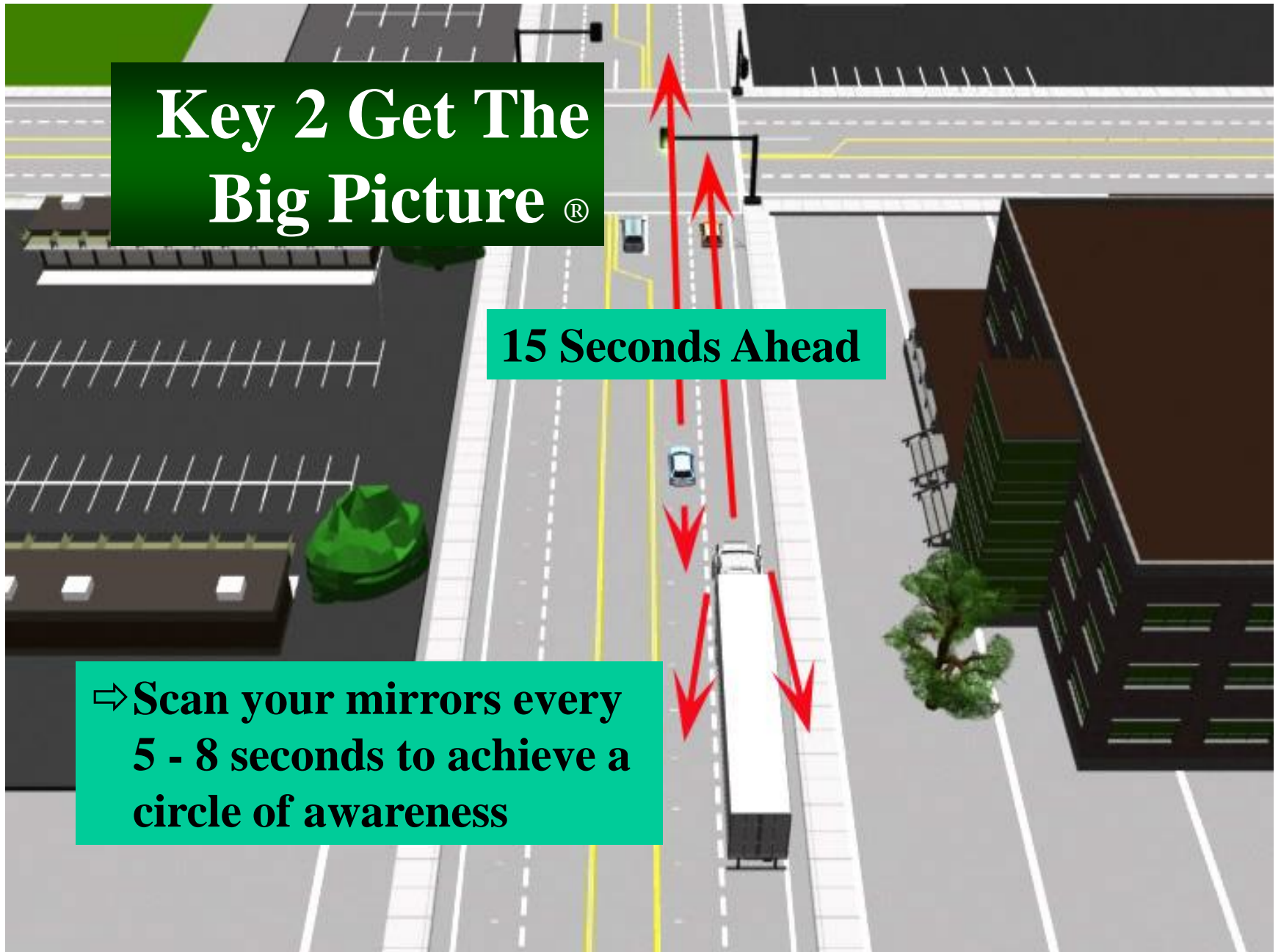
**15 Second  
Eye Lead Time**



# Key 2 Get The Big Picture<sup>®</sup>

15 Seconds Ahead

⇒ Scan your mirrors every 5 - 8 seconds to achieve a circle of awareness





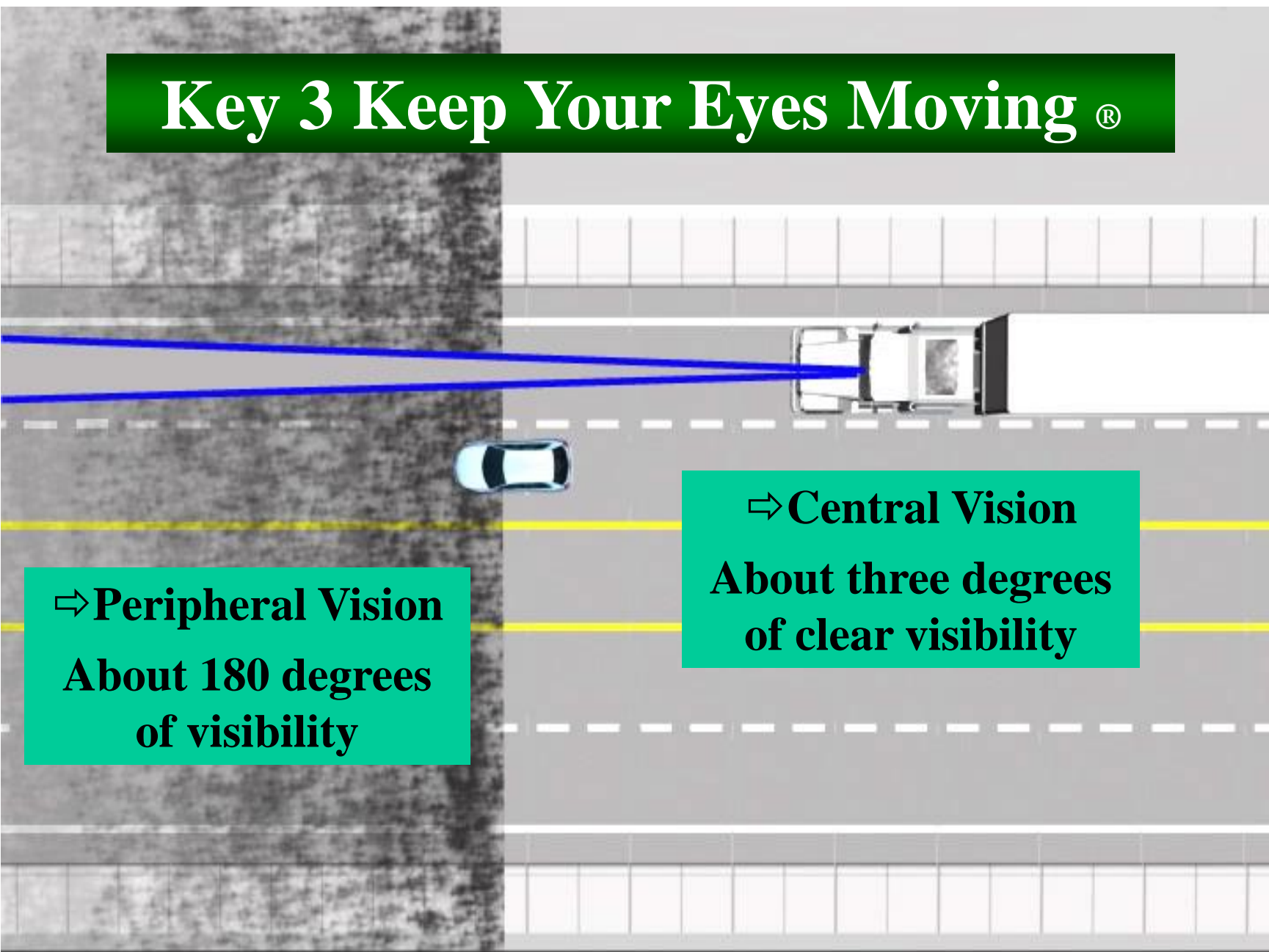
## **Key 2 Get The Big Picture ®**

**⇒ Relevant and Non-Relevant objects**

**⇒ Position your vehicle so you can see**

**⇒ Maintain the proper following distance at all times**

# Key 3 Keep Your Eyes Moving ®



The diagram shows a top-down view of a road with a dashed white center line and solid yellow edge lines. A small white car is in the left lane, and a larger white truck is in the right lane. Two blue lines originate from the car's position and extend horizontally to the truck, representing the driver's field of vision. The left blue line is slightly above the center line, and the right blue line is slightly below it, defining a narrow central vision cone. The rest of the road width is covered by the yellow lines, representing the peripheral vision area.

⇒ **Peripheral Vision**  
About 180 degrees  
of visibility

⇒ **Central Vision**  
About three degrees  
of clear visibility

# Key 3 Keep Your Eyes Moving ®

An aerial photograph of a two-lane road with a dashed white center line and solid yellow edge lines. A small white car is in the left lane, and a large white truck is in the right lane. Two blue lines originate from the car's position and converge on the truck, illustrating a visual fixation point.

⇒ Blank and Fixed stares

⇒ Avoid focusing on one object for more than 2 seconds



## Key 4 Leave Yourself An Out <sup>®</sup>

- ⇒ Avoid traveling in traffic clusters
- ⇒ Surround yourself with space
- ⇒ Anticipate the actions of others

# Key 5 Make Sure They See You<sup>®</sup>



⇒ Eye Contact

⇒ Warning Devices

⇒ Proper Timing Is Essential

# ***REMEMBER THE 5 KEYS***

## **Key 1 AIM HIGH IN STEERING®**

*⇒ Look ahead a minimum of 15 seconds*

## **Key 2 GET THE BIG PICTURE®**

*⇒ 4-second minimum following distance*

*⇒ Scan mirrors every 5 - 8 seconds*

## **Key 3 KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING®**

*⇒ Avoid focusing on one object for more than 2 seconds*

## **Key 4 LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT®**

*⇒ Surround yourself with space*

## **Key 5 MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU®**

*⇒ Eye contact*

# ***THE 5 KEYS TO SAFE BACKING***



**MANY FLEETS REPORT THAT MORE THAN 30%  
OF THEIR INCIDENTS HAPPEN WHILE  
BACKING**

# ***WHY DO BACKING COLLISIONS HAPPEN?***

- ⇒ **Backing Unnecessarily**
- ⇒ **Blind Areas**
- ⇒ **Vehicle Design**
- ⇒ **Infrequent Practice**
- ⇒ **Limited Mental Preparation For Backing**
- ⇒ **Inadequate Information During Backing**

An aerial view of a simulated environment featuring a large grey warehouse with two blue doors and an orange base. To the left are palm trees. To the right is a loading dock with several semi-trailers. In the foreground is a parking lot with many cars and a few trucks. Two teal callout boxes with black text are overlaid on the right side of the image.

# Key 1 Aim High In Steering<sup>®</sup>

⇒ When Possible,  
Avoid Backing

⇒ Think About Your  
Departure Upon  
Your Arrival

# Key 2 Get The Big Picture ®

⇒ When in doubt

*GET*

*OUT*

*AND*

*LOOK*

⇒ Scan For Potential Hazards

⇒ Use a guide if available



# Key 3 Keep Your Eyes Moving ®

⇒ Scan the entire area

⇒ Don't forget the front and  
the sides

⇒ Back slowly

⇒ Cushion your vehicle with space

Key 4 Leave  
Yourself An Out<sup>®</sup>



# Key 5 Make Sure They See You<sup>®</sup>



⇒ Get eye contact

⇒ Use warning devices

⇒ If you don't know...  
**DON'T GO!**

***When possible, avoid backing!***

***If you must back...***

**Key 1 AIM HIGH IN STEERING®**

*⇒ Choose the safest location possible*

**Key 2 GET THE BIG PICTURE®**

*⇒ Search for all potential hazards*

**Key 3 KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING®**

*⇒ Scan, don't fixate*

**Key 4 LEAVE YOURSELF AN OUT®**

*⇒ Surround yourself with space*

**Key 5 MAKE SURE THEY SEE YOU®**

*⇒ Use warning devices - Make eye contact*