



Did YOU know?

SIPDE

Sense-Identify-Predict-Decide-Execute

**Sense: to perceive by sight, hearing, smell, touch, or taste
The first step to developing an action plan.**

The best apparatus operators combine sight, hearing, smell, and touch (with any luck taste is not relevant to driving) to gather data as they drive and operate.

Sight

Be sure you are expanding your look ahead to 8 to 12 seconds ahead of your vehicle. Check not only ahead, but know what is beside you and behind you by using your mirrors. Keep your eyes moving to get all of the data. Fixating can also make you drift in the direction of your fixation.

Hearing

Headsets enable the driver to receive information from the radio and rest of the crew as they assist the driver with cross traffic, blind spots or adjacent lanes, and navigating to the incident. Be sure to listen for information from outside the headset. It is a good practice to drive with the window at least partially down to let sounds reach you. Listen for other sirens, vehicle noises beside you (in your blind spot), changes in your apparatus, rain turning to sleet, and other noises that seem out of place. One of the most obvious clues to an air leak is the sound of air escaping. During minor collisions drivers often explain that they never felt anything, but they heard a rubbing or cracking sound. Hearing that sound can help you stop quickly and minimize damage. Remove your headset and roll the window down when backing to hear your spotters.

Smell

Overheating wires, overheating brakes, coolant leaks, fuel leaks, and oil leaks all have distinct odors. Transmission fluid that smells burnt or motor oil that smells like diesel signals a problem. Smell can also aid with your incident size-up as you approach a reported fire.

Touch

You should learn what your apparatus “feels” like when it is under control and traveling at an appropriate speed. Touch gives you information about road and apparatus conditions. Drivers need to sense unusual vibrations, leaning, hard or soft pedals, hard or pulling steering, and skidding.

After gathering data with your senses, the next step is to identify what the data means.