

Part III Practical Application (Scenarios)

Next, you will have the opportunity to analyze a variety of traffic situations using the Search-Predict-Act strategy and begin the process of developing your riding strategy and hazard awareness. Below is the first scenario. You'll see a scenario of a riding situation. While viewing, aggressively search in the three categories, then work through the rest of the process to predict the risks and act to manage the situation. Once you've analyzed the situation and made your decision, read the description of the situation (Search), the possible outcomes (Predict), and the recommended actions (Act) below the picture. Click on "Next" when you're finished for another scenario.

Scenario 1: Residential Area, Speed 30 mph



Search: Your priority is the truck. The hazard condition is the board falling off the truck. There is no shoulder. Oncoming traffic? Traffic behind you? Ditch?

Predict: Worst case: the board has nails in it and will be in the path of the motorcycle. The truck may slow suddenly or stop in the middle of the road. You may need to brake or swerve to avoid a collision. Vehicles approaching may be blocking your escape route. Vehicles behind you may try to swerve around you or rear-end you if you stop suddenly.

Act: Slow if you can. Swerve around truck if path is clear or brake and then swerve. If swerving is not an option, your next-best choice is to stop short of the board. If that is not an option, consider riding into the grass and then stopping. Remember that grassy ditches have their own unpredictable hazards, bumps, holes, and traction.

This first example of search, predict, and act is kind of extreme. That is the intention. We'll talk you through this one, and then you're on your own. A rider has multiple choices, and there are a hundred different possible outcomes. You'll never have time to consider them all. Your job is to identify the biggest hazards, predict the worst that could happen, assess the risks, and use good judgment and motorcycle skills to minimize your risks while maximizing your time, space, and traction.

Two ways to maximize your efficiency in this situation: have your escape routes picked out beforehand (around the truck to the left, around the truck to the right) and know if any vehicles are behind you by checking your mirrors every five to seven seconds. That way, when the board falls out, your escape routes are obvious and your only decision is whether to stop or swerve.