

John Adkins

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Subject: Safety: Search



Blue Knights New York I

Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club

Club Phone: 631-736-1955 Events Recording
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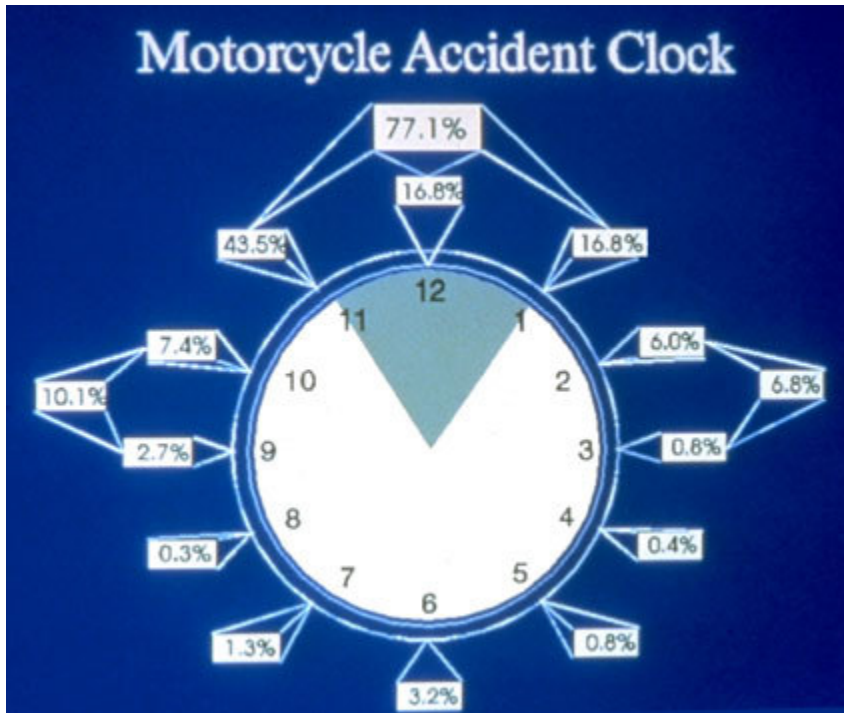
Detailed Explanation of "Search"

Establish a Search Pattern:

- Search Near: Your immediate path, out to about 4 seconds ahead.
- Search Far: Look about 12-14 seconds ahead. This is difficult to do in heavy traffic, but if you can't see around the vehicle in front of you, you are either following too closely, or following the wrong vehicle. Try to follow a vehicle you can see over or through.
- Search the Sides: Be aware of other vehicles and road conditions to the sides. Try to verify that other drivers are aware of you through eye contact.
- Search the Rear (Mirrors): Mirrors must be properly adjusted. Check your mirrors at least every five to seven seconds.
- Blind Spots: Establish a search pattern that helps to ensure that no area is forgotten and an escape path is available. As an example, for freeway driving, an effective search pattern might be: Front, Left Mirror, Front, Right Mirror, Front, Left Side, Front, Right Side.
- Notice that we always return our eyes to the front after searching another quadrant. Since this is our direction of

travel, it is also the direction from which most hazards will be presented.

- Front Area. The Hurt Report indicates that most accidents occur in the 11-1 o'clock range (77%).



- Eye movement and change of focus every 2-3 seconds reduces the likelihood of missing critical information. When checking your blind spot, turn your head only as far as needed to check the blind spot area. Don't turn your head to look behind you, it takes too much time and can cause you to miss what is developing in front of you.

Advanced riding Tip #2

- An effective search pattern involves "Selective Seeing." Search for critical information and priority items. Avoid information overload. Allow yourself time to process information.

Establish search categories:

Roadway Users:

- Vehicles



- Pedestrians



- Bicyclists



- Animals



Roadway Conditions:

- Surface color changes.



- Texture changes.



- Edges of roadway.



- Objects on the surface.



- Shoulder conditions.



- Slope of the roadway.



- Intersections and merge areas.



- Fixed Objects.



Signs, Signals and Markings:

Know the meaning of signs by shape:



- Octagon = Stop
- Triangle = Yield
- Pennant = No Passing
- Diamond = Warning/Work Advisory
- Crossbuck = Railroad
- Rectangle = Regulation/Guidance. (Vertical rectangles are regulatory. Horizontal rectangles provide directions or services.)
- Shield = Interstates (Notes on Interstate signs: Odd numbered roads run north & south.

Even numbered roads run east & west. Three digit roads that begin with an odd number, i.e. 394, are called spurs and go into a city. Three digit roads that begin with an even number, i.e. 694, go around a city.)

[Advanced Riding Tip #3](#)

A Note on Speed Advisory Limits:

- Speed signs are often posted on warning signs for curves. A rider can exceed the advisory limit without being cited, provided the maximum road speed limit is not exceeded. It is possible to receive a citation for reckless driving if the rider's speed is judged to be too fast. A right angle curve warning sign indicates the appropriate speed is less than 30 mph. A curved arrow indicates the appropriate speed is more than 30 mph.

Know meaning of the signs by color:



- Red = Prohibit
- Green = Guide
- Blue = Services & Information
- Yellow = Warning
- White = Regulatory
- Black = Night Speed Limit
- Brown = Recreation
- Orange = Construction Signals

Ride With Pride

John A. Adkins

Blue Knights NY 1

Web Site: [Blue Knights NY 1](#)

Web Site: [FOP Lodge 101](#)