

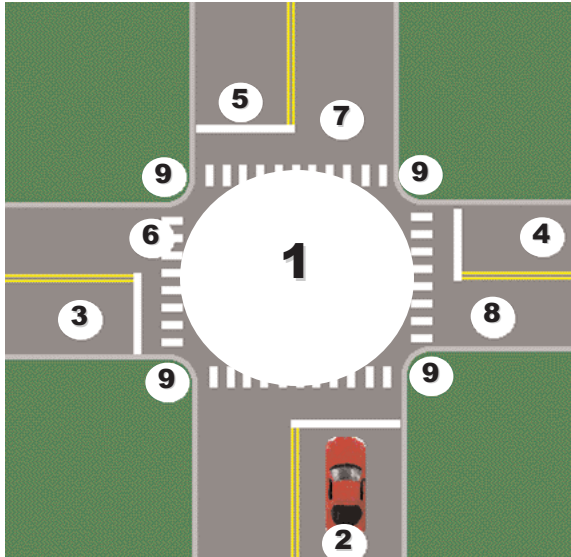
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Control the Intersection

- Identify LOS blockage.
- Check for clear left, front, and right zones before entering intersection.
- With a red light, or stopped traffic, reduce speed to time arrival into an open zone.

Locations to Search During Intersection Approach



When you drive into an intersection, you are exposed to the highest risk location, where the largest percentage of multiple vehicle crashes takes place. What is the most common excuse given after an intersection crash? Yes, "I didn't see it."

Remember, our mind tells the eyes what to look for. If we know where to look, and what to look for, the odds are more favorable that we will "see" what is being searched for. If you were told to look for a cow's head in the photo on page 2, you most likely would have seen it.

Search the left, front, and right zones of intersections before entering. The sequence of searching the three zones will vary according to LOS conditions.

When there is a LOS blockage, your final search should be in that direction before entering the intersection.

Often, you must make more than one search of a zone.

When making a turn, **always make your last search in the direction you are turning.**

1. Search your immediate POT in the intersection. Look for traffic lights, other vehicles, LOS blockages, pedestrians.

2. Search your rear zone immediately after seeing the intersection, before braking, and while stopped.

3. Search for traffic approaching from the left zone.

4. Search for traffic approaching from the right zone.

5. Search for oncoming traffic in the front zone.

6. Before making a left turn, search for an open path to enter.

7. When going straight, search your intended POT.

8. Before making a right turn, search for an open path to enter.

9. Search all corners for pedestrians.



Search the Left Zone

We are stopped at an intersection, planning to make a left turn. We are able to search to the left at a 90-degree angle to our target area. Using our forward reference point, we are confident in positioning our vehicle far enough into the intersection to have a good line of sight without interfering with crossing traffic. By searching to our target area, we will be assured that our

search is deep enough to detect any fast approaching vehicles and to detect a hole or gap to enter in the traffic flow.

A **“hole”** is the vacant space between two clusters of traffic.

A **“cluster”** is a grouping together of vehicles to form a traffic flow.

A **“gap”** is vacant space between two vehicles in the cluster.



Search the Front Zone

Zone Control's principle for searching an intersection is to look for open left, front and right zones before entering. We search the front zone in this photo and see cars in a parking lot that will create a LOS-POT blockage as we make a left turn. That area will need to be monitored before *and* after we make our turn.

Search the Right Zone

We are able to search the target area to the right. It appears as if we have a hole in the traffic flow coming from that direction. However, the car (circled) creates a LOS blockage which could conceal a small-profile vehicle, especially a motorcycle.



7 Search to the Target Area Before Entering Intersection



The wall creates a LOS blockage preventing us from seeing to the right zone target area. This gives us only a two-second view of traffic coming from the right. How far into the intersection is the front of our car? Can we move forward to get a better view? Our reference point shows our front bumper has not reached the curblane.



By knowing the reference point we can move confidently forward to improve our view. We can now see several seconds deep into the intersection. We see the white van at this moment creating a LOS blockage, which could prevent us from seeing another vehicle.

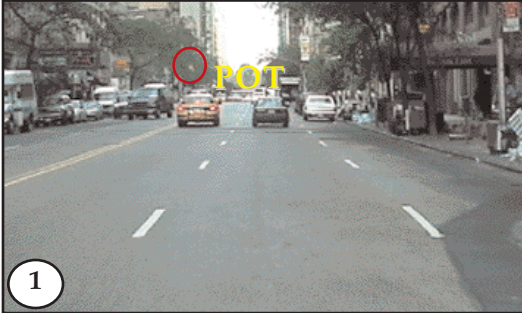


The traffic light is turning red. Try to time your arrival for a green light. The red light is a closed front zone. By treating it as a closed front zone—rather than as a red light—you will have an opportunity to practice a behavioral pattern that can be very valuable in a number of other closed front zone situations. An example of a similar situation occurs when you are on a highway and all traffic comes to a sudden stop because of construction or a crash. That becomes a high-risk moment, which you would have very few opportunities to “practice.” When you see a red light as a closed front zone, adjust speed to arrive into an open zone. Most drivers only learn that a red light means to stop. By setting a higher standard (i.e. to arrive at the intersection with a green light rather than a red light), you are able to give yourself a test situation where you can have success or failure. There will be thousands of red traffic lights that you will be approaching. That will give you thousands of opportunities to have success!



The traffic light just changed from red to green. There are two cars stopped. How many seconds before the vehicle in front of you is able to move?

Answer: The vehicle in front will not move until two seconds after the light changes. It takes one second per vehicle, normally, before the last vehicle is able to move. If it takes longer, there could be a problem delaying the traffic flow such as: a car stopped to make a left turn, a pedestrian crossing, a stalled car, or an inattentive driver.



Even in NYC it is possible for you to use all the principles and habits that we have advocated in this book.

Photo 1: A search 15 seconds ahead to our target area shows there is a closed POT caused by the red light.



Photo 2: We are applying slight braking action to delay our approach into the closed front zone. The car ahead of us rushed up to the red light only to have a longer delay, and more stress, while stopped for the light.



Photo 3: The traffic light changed to green and the car in front is moving. We have an open front zone. We evaluate the LOS conditions at the intersection and see the greatest LOS blockage is created by the stopped delivery truck.

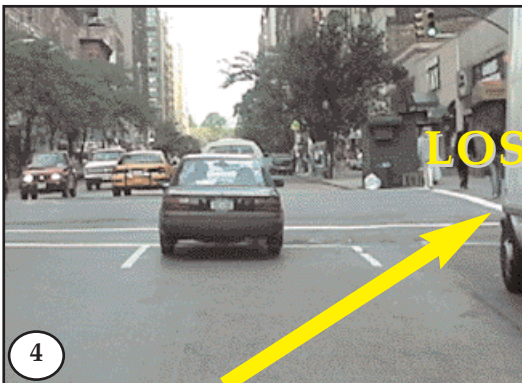


Photo 4: We want to search to the front of the parked truck when we are able to see at a 45-degree angle to its front. While moving, this gives us the final view before we are beyond our PONR (point-of-no-return). If we planned to make a right turn at this intersection, what would we be looking for before turning? We should expect that pedestrians may be crossing and we would need to yield the right of way to them.