

Using the S.E.E. (Search, Evaluate, Execute) mental process for making judgments and taking action in traffic along with the continuing development of your riding skills, can help reduce traffic related risks.

Maintaining your focus while riding can often be a challenge. But to make it easier, the MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION® (MSF) introduced a simplified version of the mental process for making judgments and taking action in traffic: **S.E.E.**, for **S**earch, **E**valuate, and **E**xecute. This new acronym is used in the MSF Basic Rider Course™.

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- SEARCH** As you ride, scan the area aggressively, including the areas along the road and behind you. Check your mirrors frequently to maintain a constant awareness of your surroundings.
- EVALUATE** Use that information to evaluate the situation, predict what unexpected hazards and challenges may arise. And actively formulate strategies to deal with them.
- EXECUTE** Adjust your speed and positioning accordingly, while communicating your intentions to others.
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## SEARCH

Scanning aggressively provides the information you need to identify potential hazards, make your decisions, and take action. Scanning covers more than just what is in front of you. You must be aware of what is to either side and behind you. Don't let your eyes fix on any one object for more than a split second. This will help you be aware of anything that may affect you.

## EVALUATE

Predict - Anticipate what the hazard might do. The direction of a potential hazard is important. Clearly, a vehicle moving away from you is not as critical as a vehicle moving in your path. Determine what the hazard might do ... where a collision might occur. How critical is the hazard? How probable is a collision? Is there a need to downshift to be able to respond more quickly? This is the "What if ..." phase of S.E.E. that depends on your knowledge and experience. Now estimate the consequences of the hazard. How might the hazard, or your effort to avoid it, affect you and others? Next, determine what you need to do based on your prediction.

## EXECUTE

Carry out your decision. This is where your riding skills come into play. And this is where they must be second nature. The best decision will be meaningless without the skills to carry it out.

**Communication** - the most passive action you can take since it depends upon the response of someone else. Use your lights or horn to get the attention of drivers when necessary, but don't rely on them receiving your communication and reacting to it. Instead, focus on more active responses, such as:

**Adjustments of speed** - acceleration, slowing, or stopping.

**Adjustments of position** - changing lane position or completely changing direction.

The degree of adjustment depends upon how critical the hazard is, and how much time and space you have. The more time and space, the least degree of adjustment, the least amount of risk. In areas of high potential risk, such as intersections, give yourself more time and space by reducing the time you need to react. Cover both brakes and the clutch, and be ready with possible escape routes.

**S.E.E.** - **S**earch, **E**valuate, **E**xecute. The better you learn this approach and the more you use it, the more it will become second nature. And the better chance you have of avoiding an unhappy outcome in a tricky situation.