

Southern Oregon University

A white van is parked in a parking lot, viewed from a front-quarter perspective. The van is the central focus of the image, with its front end on the left and its rear on the right. The background shows a blurred parking lot with yellow lines and some trees in the distance. The overall image has a light, semi-transparent overlay.

Van Safety Training for Students
and Employees of the University

PASSENGER VAN USE POLICY

- All drivers must be 18, have a valid drivers license and pass the van safety quiz as well as a driving test.
- Van check out is for University sponsored events only.
- There is absolutely no smoking, no alcoholic beverages and no animals allowed in the vehicle.
- The driver has not been convicted of a major traffic offense, as defined in ORS 484-010, within the last three years.
- The driver has not been convicted of a moving traffic violation within the past three years.
- See the complete policy at:
<http://www.sou.edu/fmp/motorpool.shtml>

Van Restrictions

In response to recommendations from State of Oregon Risk Management Division and a National Transportation Safety Board Investigative Report, the following restrictions apply to use of 15 passenger vans:

- a. Passenger limit is 10 passengers plus the driver,
- b. Passengers must sit in forward seats and must use seat belts,
- c. Empty passenger and cargo space should not be completely filled with equipment or luggage,
- d. Roof racks are prohibited, and
- e. Vans must be driven at a reduced rate of speed not to exceed 55 mph.

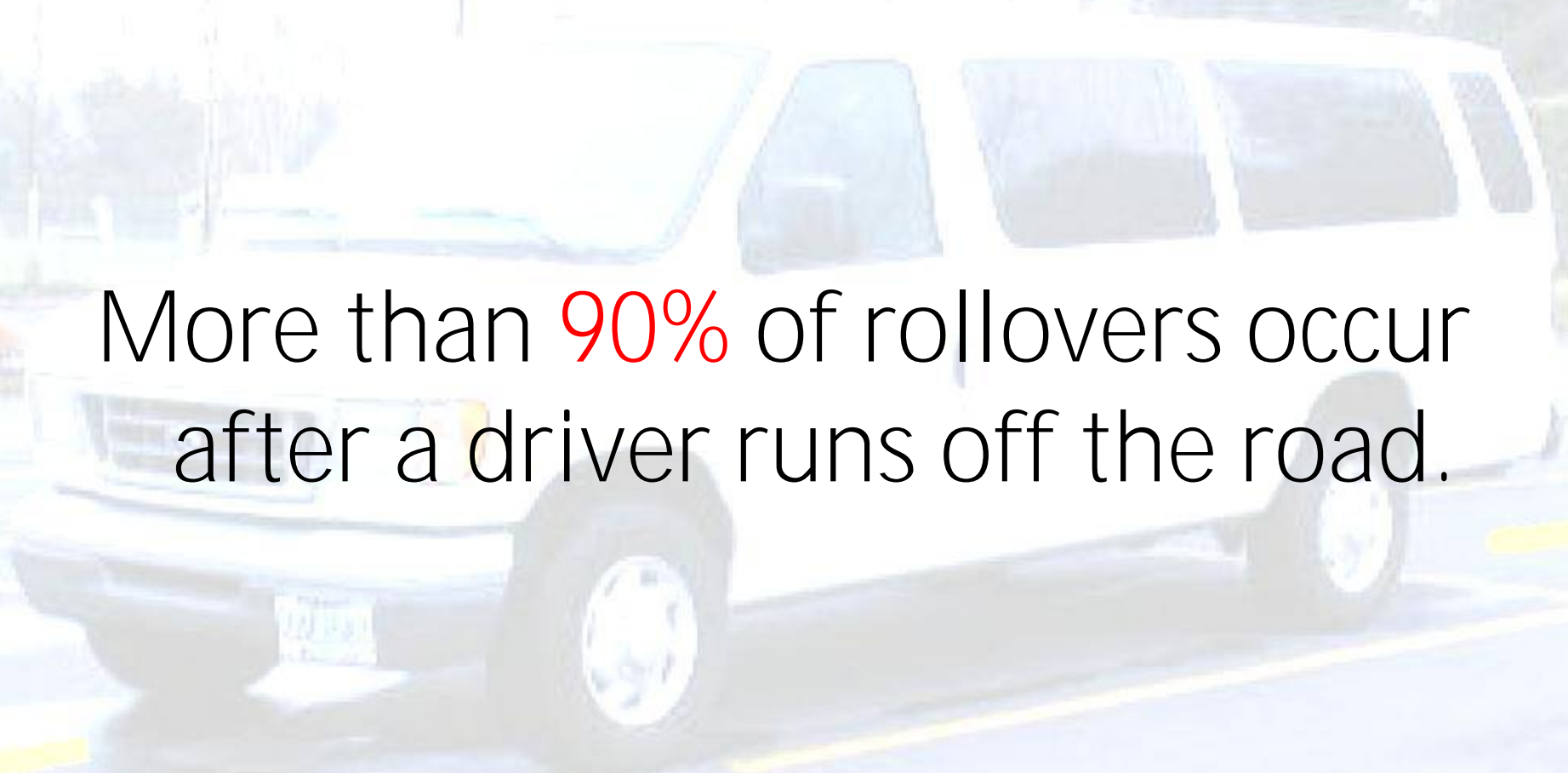
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Advisory

The safety problem with large vans is not new.

- In April 2001, NHTSA issued a consumer advisory after finding that 15 passenger vans have a dramatically higher risk of rolling when fully loaded.
- Two main contributing factors to rollover accidents are inappropriate driving speed and a high occupancy load.
- To minimize the risk of rollover accidents, Southern Oregon University allows a maximum of 10 people per van plus the driver.

SINGLE VEHICLE CRASHES

More than 90% of rollovers occur after a driver runs off the road.



A white passenger van is parked in a parking lot. The van is a large, boxy model with multiple rows of windows. It is positioned in a parking space marked with yellow lines. The background shows a clear sky and some trees. The text "A LARGE PASSENGER VAN WILL NOT HANDLE LIKE A CAR" is overlaid on the image in a large, black, sans-serif font.

A LARGE PASSENGER VAN WILL NOT
HANDLE LIKE A CAR

Effects of Speed

Driving like a passenger car may be dangerous in a large passenger van

because...

- Vans do not accelerate as rapidly,
- Vans do not stop as quickly,
- Vans may swerve if stopped rapidly, and
- Overcorrecting to return to the road can cause rollovers.

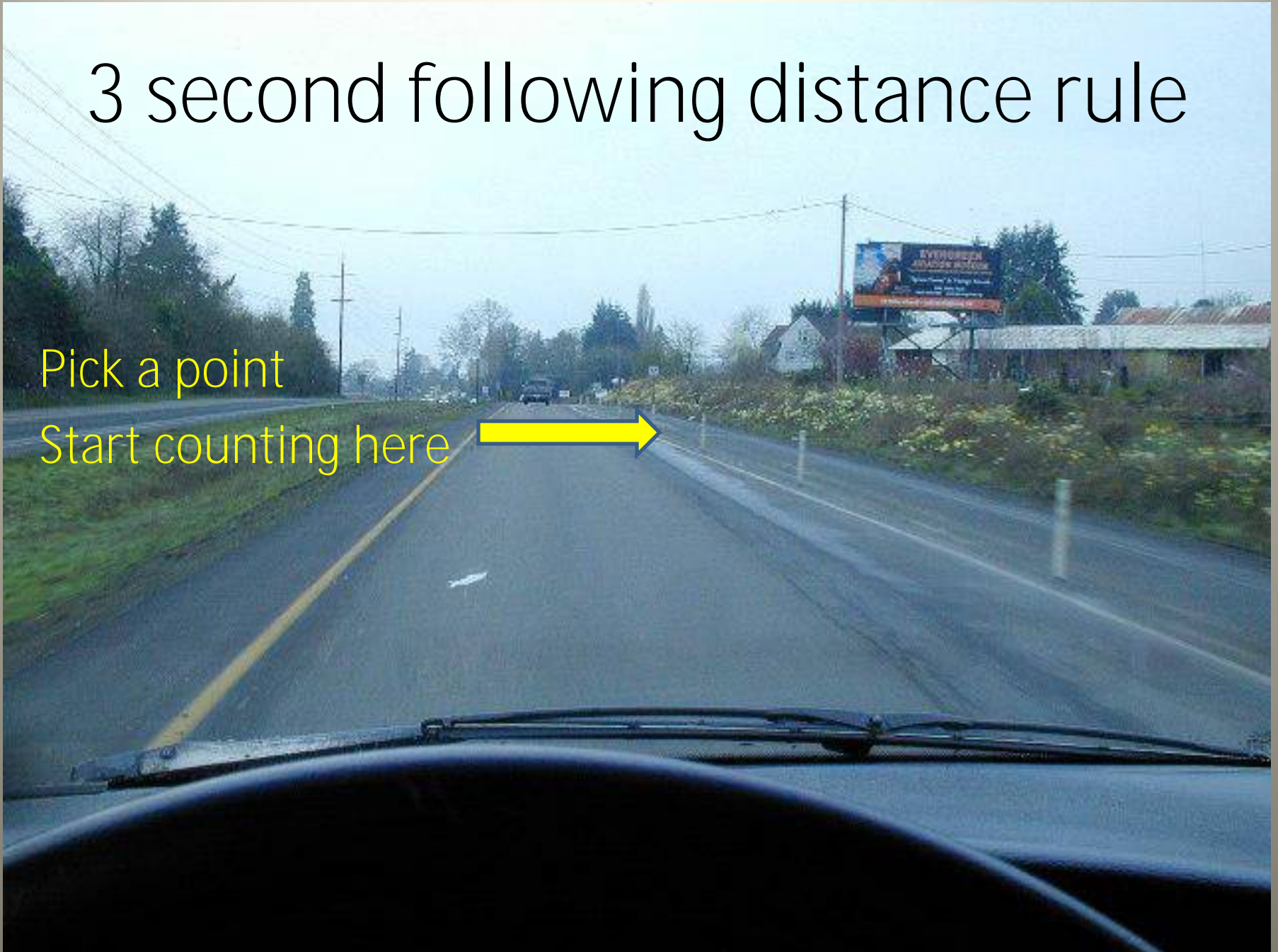
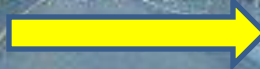
PRACTICE BASIC DEFENSIVE DRIVING SKILLS AT ALL TIMES

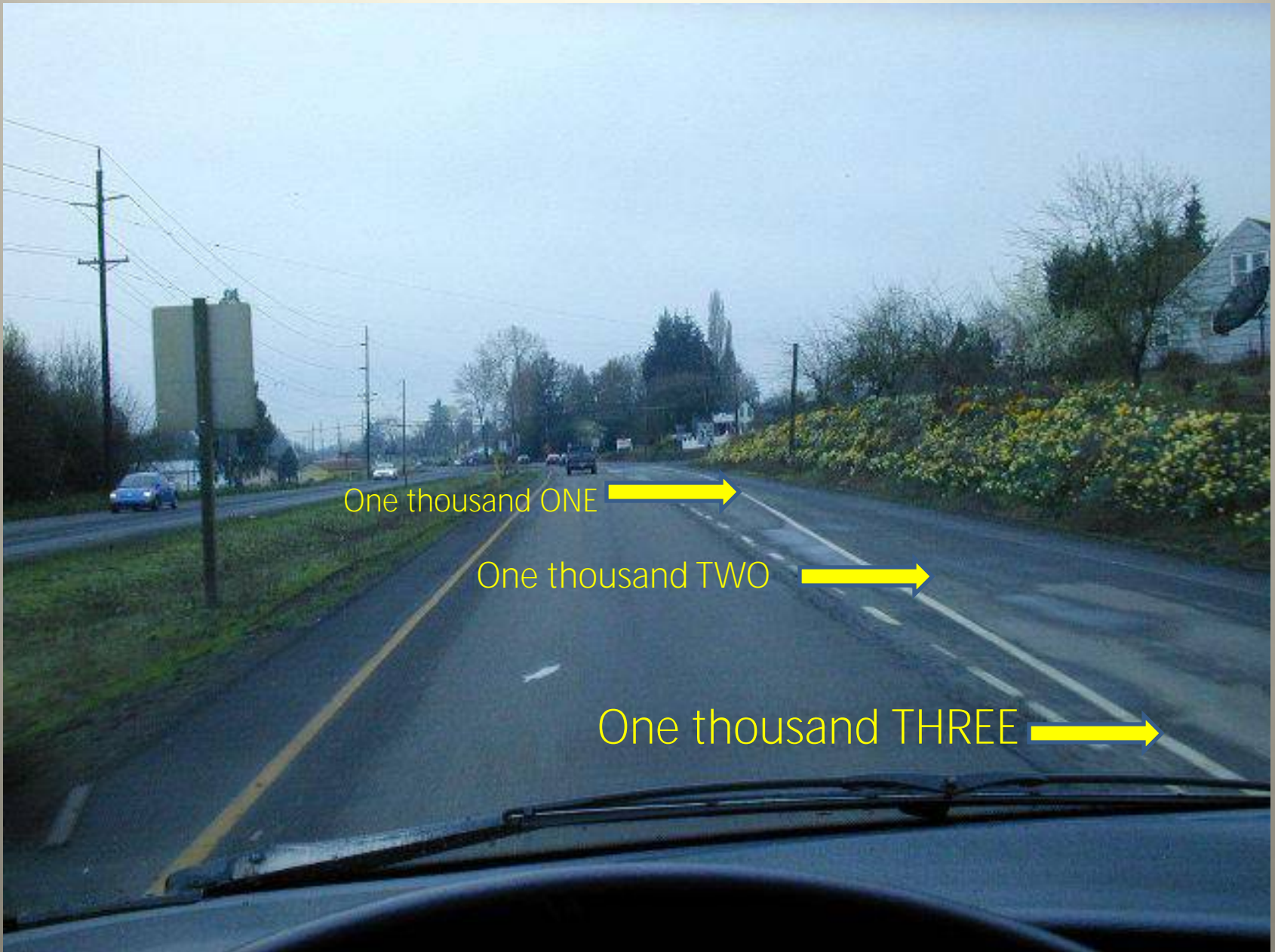
- Obey the speed limit and the basic speed rule
- **Don't tailgate. Use the 3 second rule (more time in bad weather, at night, or in heavy traffic).**
- Always stay alert, attentive, and aware
 - Look ahead
 - Check your mirrors frequently
 - Look left-right-left at all intersections
- Avoid distractions
- Anticipate hazards – never be surprised
- Adjust for weather conditions
- Be courteous - use turn signals
- Make a trip plan, know your route, coordinate caravanning
- Avoid danger zones

3 second following distance rule

Pick a point

Start counting here





One thousand ONE →

One thousand TWO →

One thousand THREE →

PLAN A SAFE TRIP BEFORE YOU GET IN



Any leaks


What's behind you



Complete a walk around check –
WALK ALL THE WAY AROUND



Clean lights?
Working lights?
Flashing turn signals?

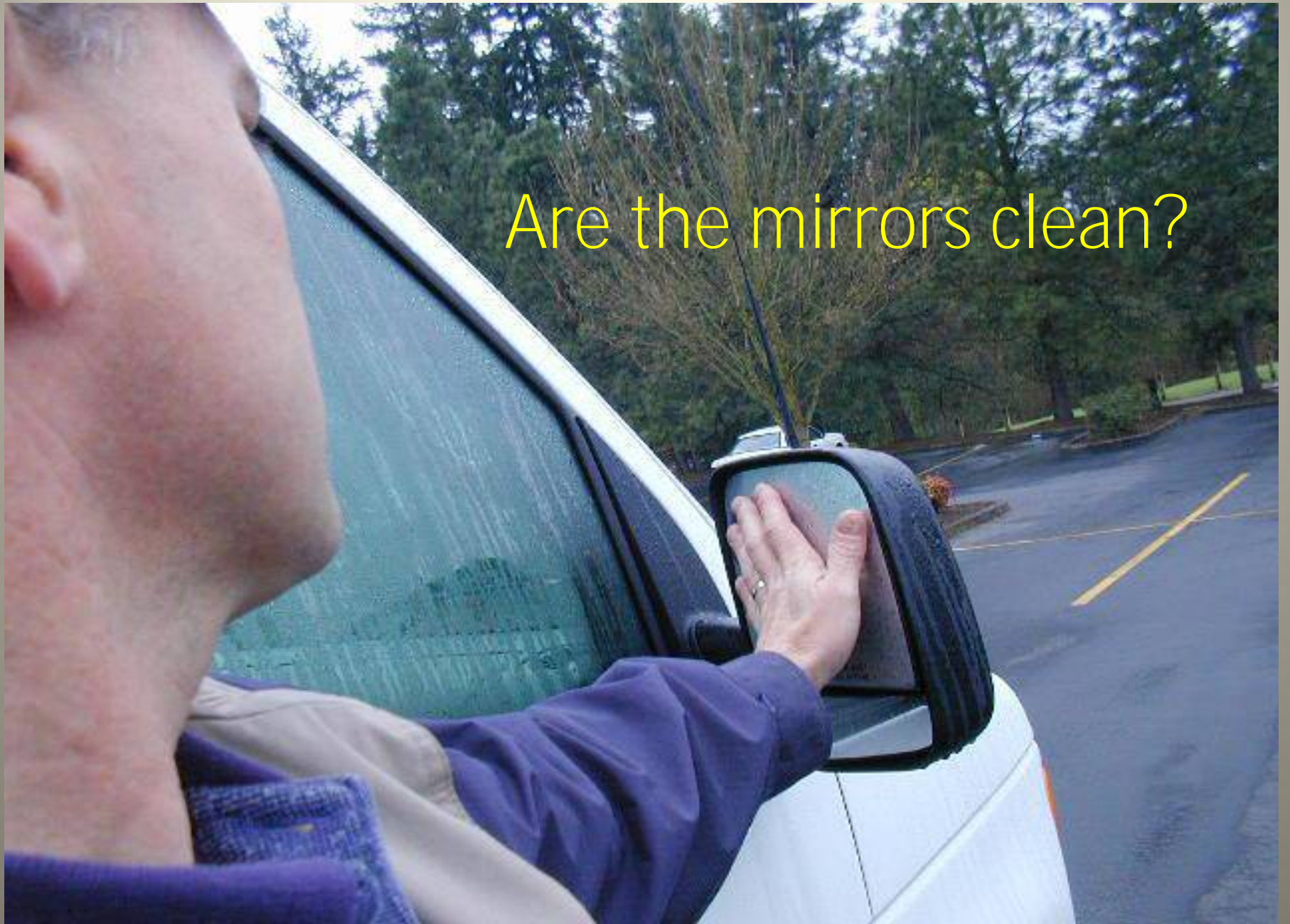
A man wearing a white baseball cap and a blue jacket is shown in profile, looking out a window. His right hand is pressed against the glass. The window is dark, and the background outside shows bare trees. The text "Can you see out the windows?" is overlaid in yellow on the right side of the image.

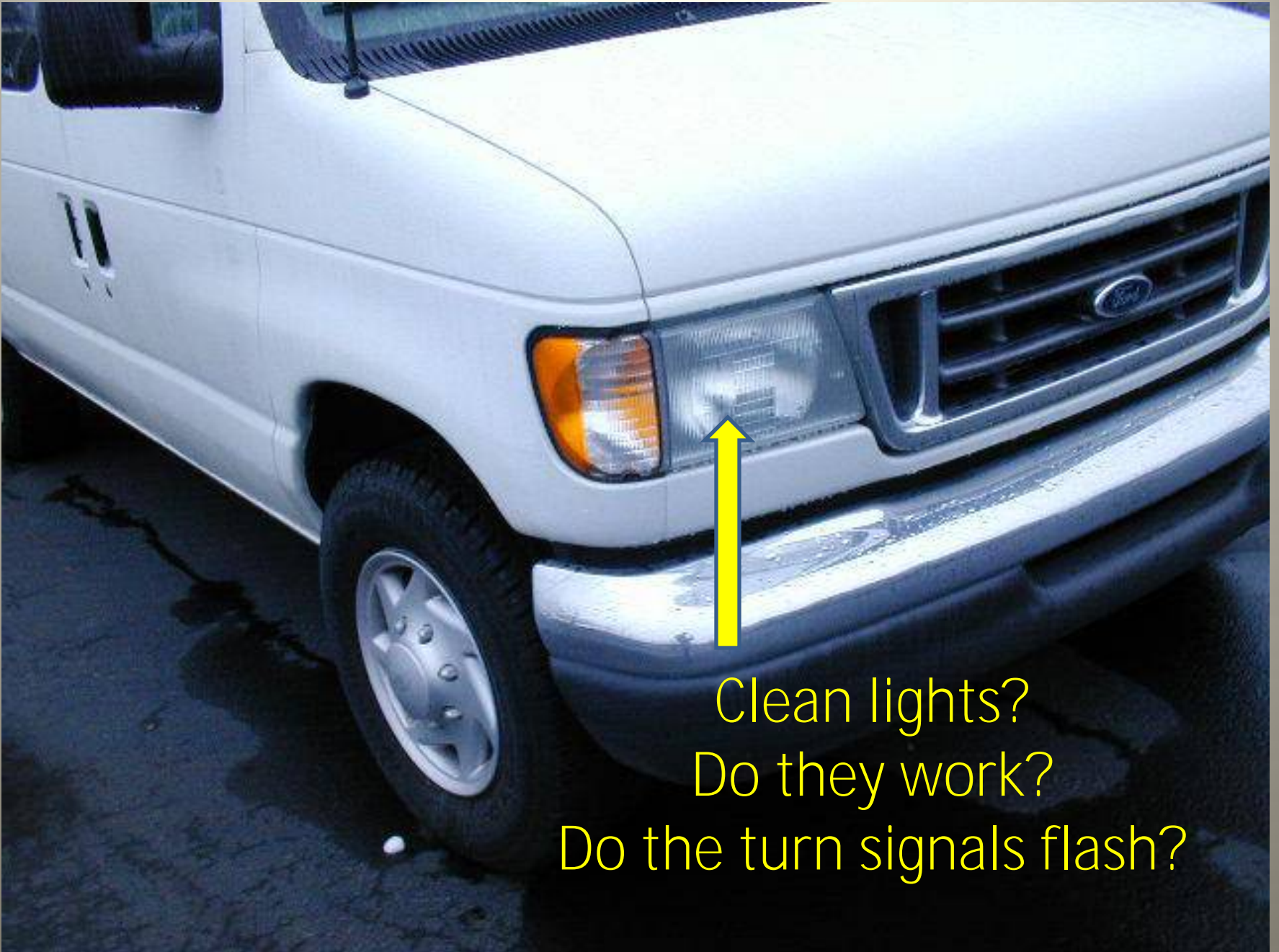
Can you see out the windows?



Check the tires

Are the mirrors clean?





Clean lights?
Do they work?
Do the turn signals flash?

Plan your exit route when you arrive.

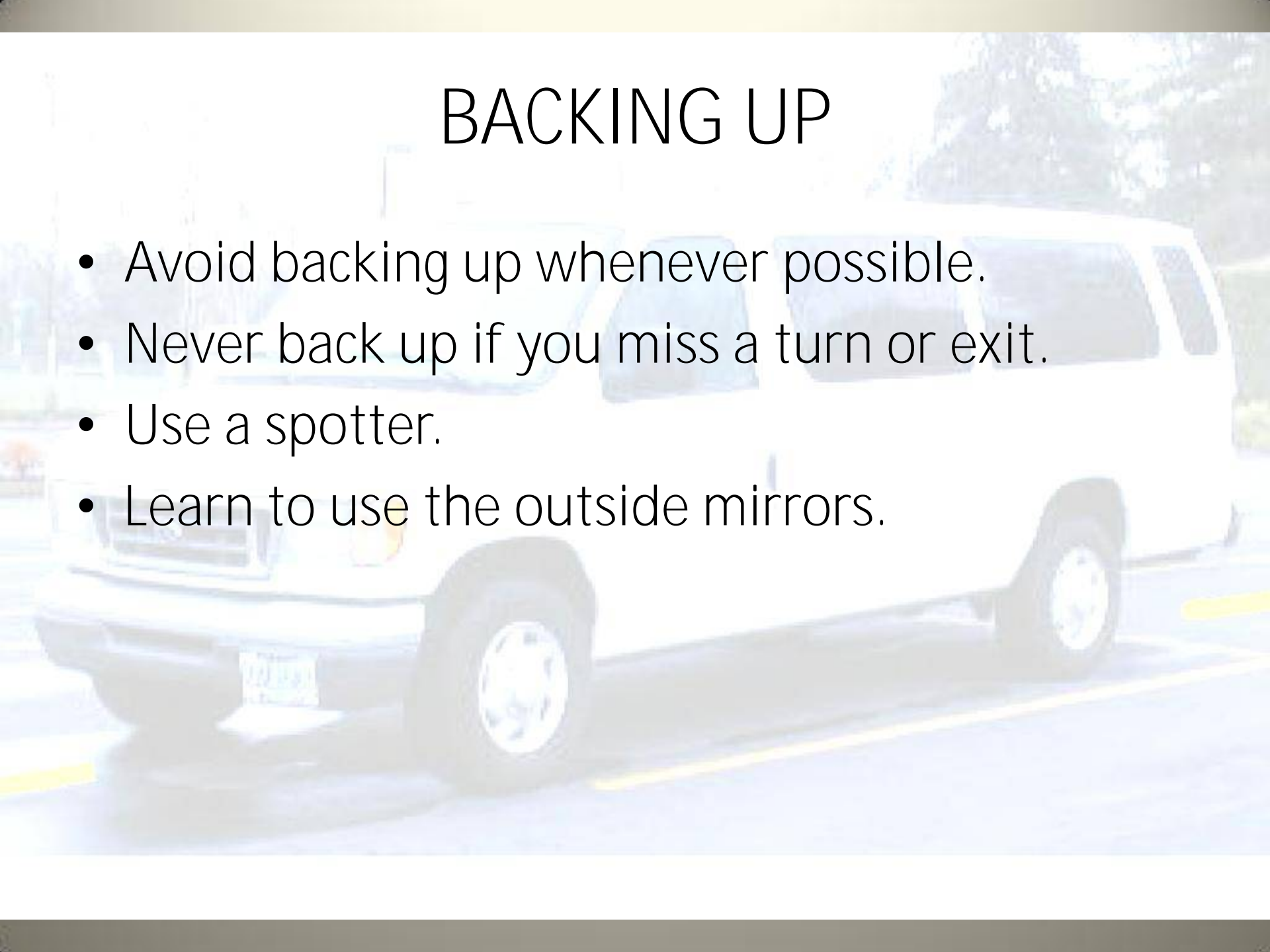


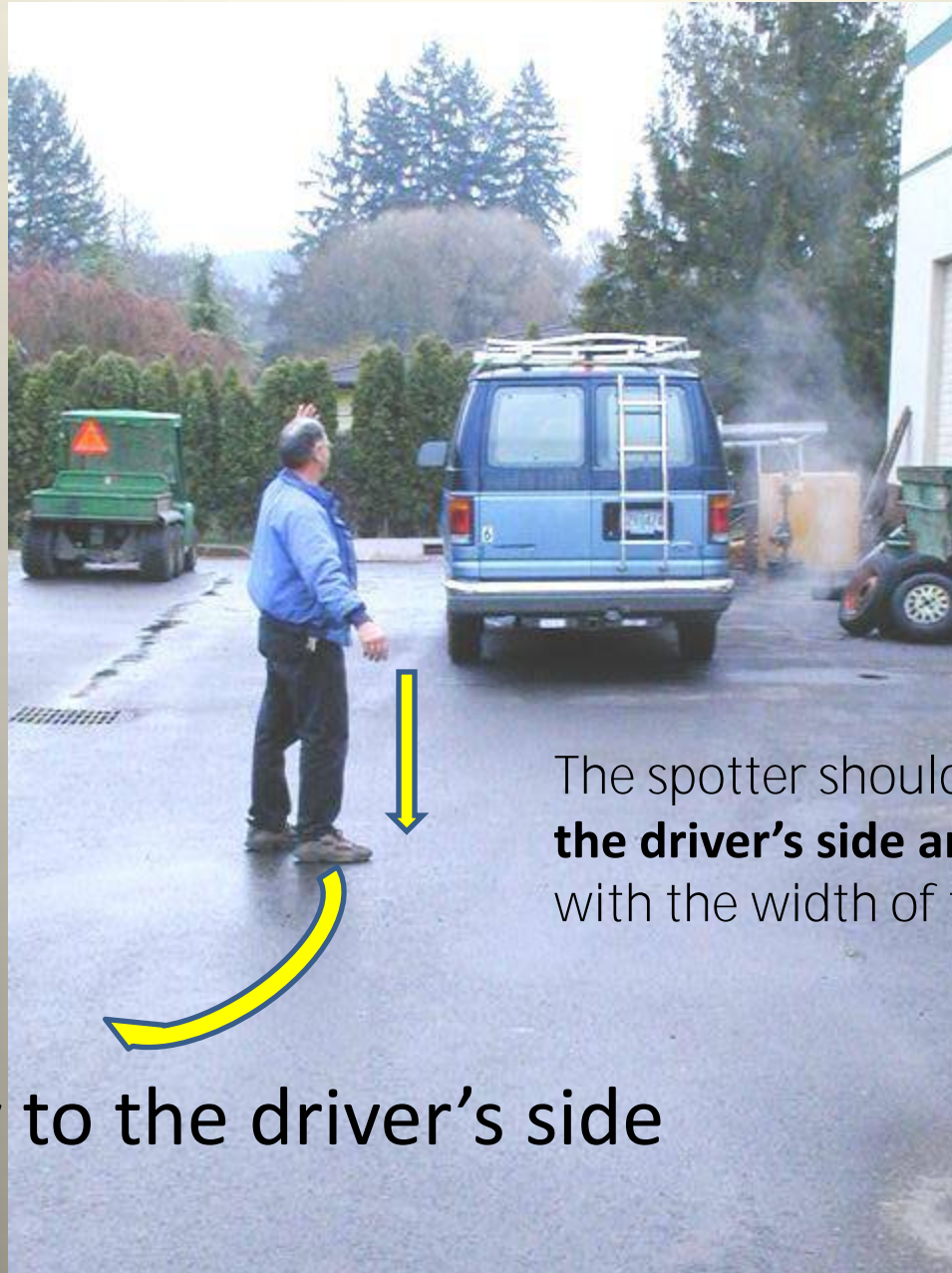
Best



BACKING UP

- Avoid backing up whenever possible.
- Never back up if you miss a turn or exit.
- Use a spotter.
- Learn to use the outside mirrors.





The spotter should stand on **the driver's side and line up** with the width of the van.

Back away to the driver's side



Do not back up until you see the spotter signaling.

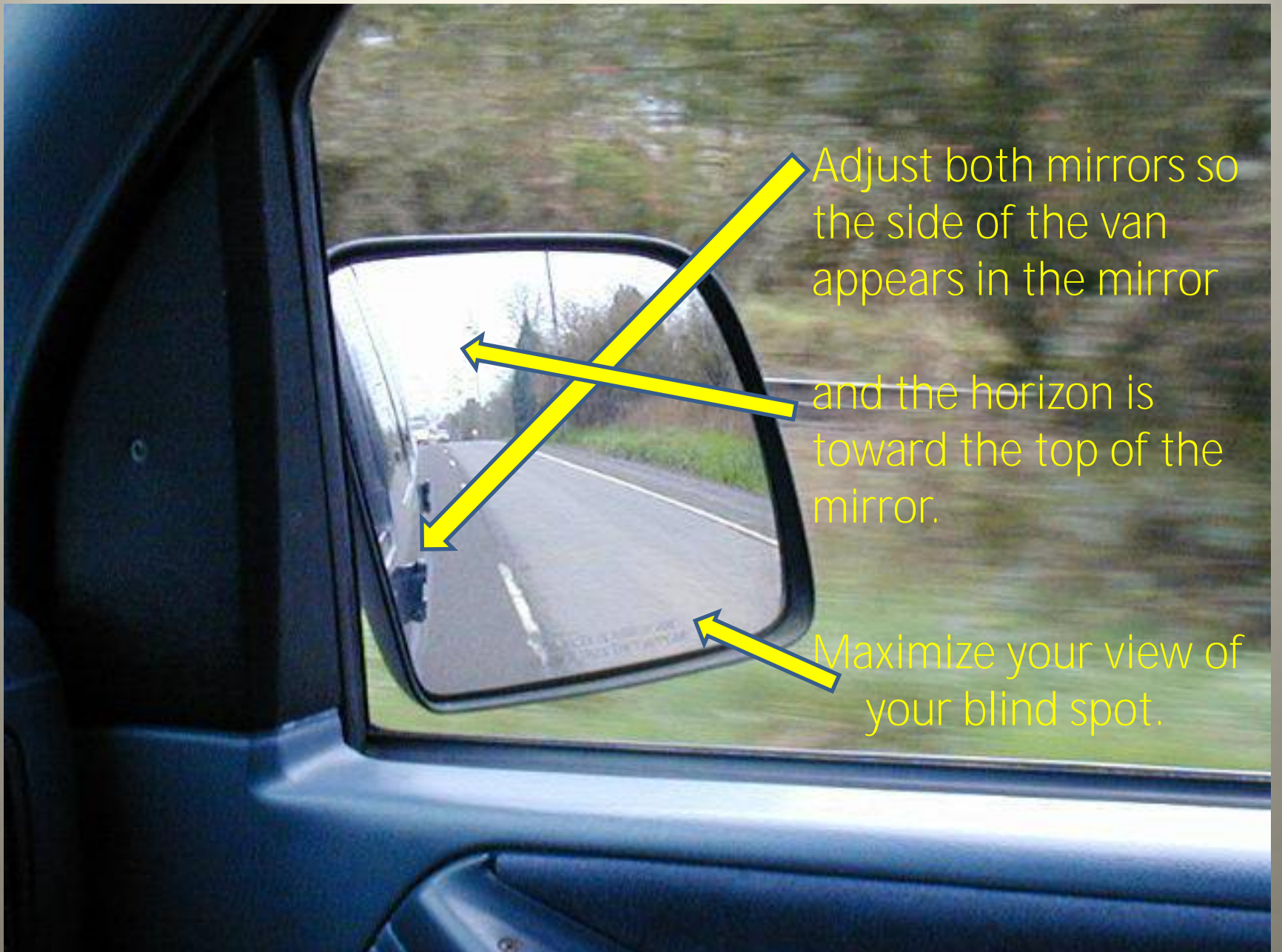
DO NOT RUN OVER YOUR SPOTTER!



Learn how to use your right hand
mirror...

because this mirror in a large van is worthless.





Adjust both mirrors so
the side of the van
appears in the mirror

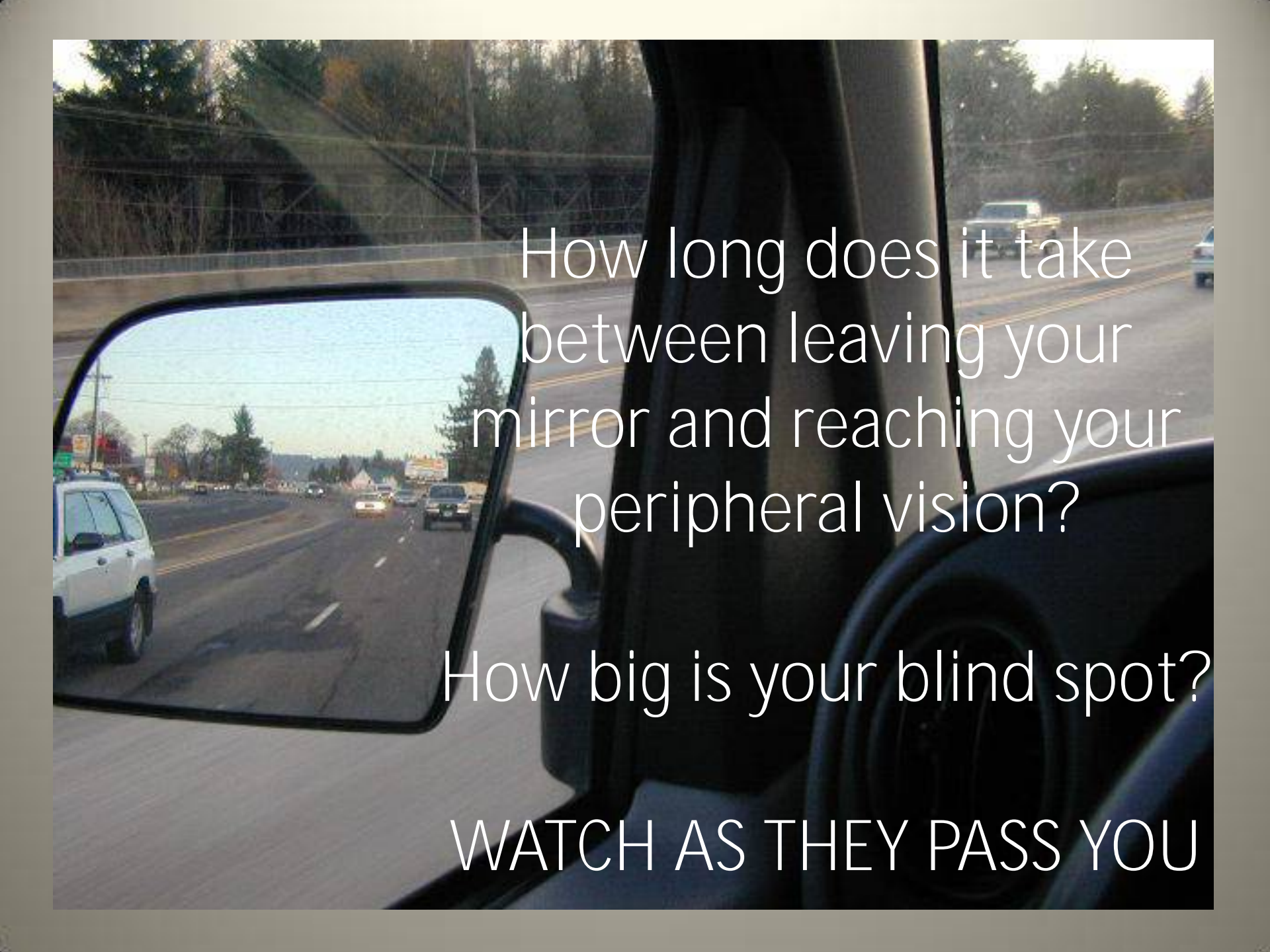
and the horizon is
toward the top of the
mirror.

Maximize your view of
your blind spot.



WATCH YOUR MIRROR AS YOU PASS
VEHICLES





How long does it take
between leaving your
mirror and reaching your
peripheral vision?

How big is your blind spot?

WATCH AS THEY PASS YOU

PREVENT DISTRACTIONS BY PRACTICING THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS

- Adjust the seat and mirrors and become familiar with the light and wiper controls before you start.
- Have a navigator tune the radio, adjust the heater or AC, look at the map for directions and handle cell phone communications when traveling by caravan.
- Keep the floor near the drivers seat clear so items do not get under your feet while driving.
- **Don't try to retrieve items that fall on the floor while driving. Wait until your vehicle is parked.**
- **Don't eat while you are driving and make sure your drink is secured in a cup holder.**
- **If you find yourself "lost in thought" or drowsy take a break.**
- Texting in the car while driving is strictly prohibited and will result in FMP provoking your privileges.
- Do not attempt to use your cell phone and drive at the same time. It is unlawful in Oregon to use your cell phone without a hands free feature. **Turn your cell phone to "silent ring" so you are not tempted to answer it.**

HEADS UP DRIVING

- Heads up – big picture.
- Anticipate hazards – do not be surprised.
- Be aware of all other traffic, including cars coming up from behind.
- **Don't hang out in danger zones.**
- Leave plenty of following distance.
- Smooth and easy on the steering at 55 mph or less.

SAFE LANE CHANGES

A safe and simple 6-step process. Do not skip any steps.

- Maintain your following distance. Be patient. Be sure you need to pass.
- Wait for an adequate break in traffic.
- Check your mirrors.
- Use your turn signal.
- **Look over your shoulder.**
- Change lanes and re-establish your following distance.



Don't hang out in the danger zone for long.



Use this speed in ideal conditions.
Go slower at night, when it is raining, or when you
are not familiar with the road.

Slow down before you get to the curve.

Seatbelts Save Lives



- About 9,500 lives are saved each year because of seatbelt use. Proper use of your seatbelt will reduce your chances of being killed in a traffic collision by 45 percent.
- The driver is responsible for making sure passengers are buckled up correctly.
- The driver is responsible for the safety of the passengers in the vehicle and should take this task seriously!

Proceed to the online [Van Quiz link](#).

You will be notified by email if you pass.

ALWAYS DRIVE SAFELY