

WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

December 2008

“The View Through the Mirror”

Mirrors are a part of our everyday life. With most of us, the first thing we look at in the morning is our reflection in our bathroom mirror. After the shock of that wears off and we are ready to begin our day, the mirrors in our vehicle play a very important role in getting us to our destination safely.

Lately, in the Bay-Valley District, one of most common unsafe practices is the failure to check or adjust mirrors. Not the mirrors themselves, but the improper use of the mirrors by the vehicle operators.

As in all vehicles, navigation thru intersections, changing lanes, pulling from the curb and making turns may create a “blind spot”. The operator needs to lean forward and then back to look around the door post and mirrors for vehicles, children or pedestrians. This is known as a “head-bob”. (Module 2, Safe Driver Training)

Another area of interest in the mirror system is the separation of the regular and the convex mirror on the LLV/FFV. There should be a 2 inch separation for optimum visibility. If not, please complete form 4565 and ask the VMF to separate the mirrors.
(Mirror separation)

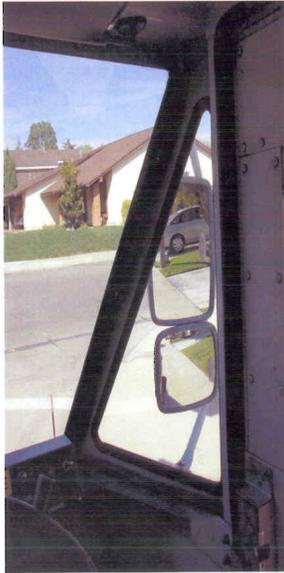
We should also check the mirrors every 8-10 seconds. We should make sure they are adjusted properly before operating our vehicle. To aid us in this, offices can install Mirror Adjustment Stations (MAS) using the dimension in according to EL 804 (Exhibit A-1)

Keep in mind, all Vital Few offices should have installed the MOS as it is a requirement in your Accident Reduction Plan. By parking the LLF/FFV on these stations, the operator will be able to adjust all mirrors properly before leaving the parking lot.

When used properly mirrors can make the difference when it comes to arriving at our destination safely. Take the time to get the “big picture” before pulling into traffic, leaving the curb area and changing lanes.

Bob Neitro, Driving Safety Instructor

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF MIRROR SEPARATION?



Mirrors too close together



Mirrors separated 1 1/2" - Notice Red Pants?



Mirrors separated 2" - See Pedestrian?

Mirrors are an important tool to assist you to see around your vehicle while driving. You also need to lean forwards and backwards to see around your mirrors. Never rely solely on mirrors, but always use your mirrors while driving. Check mirrors every 8-10 seconds while driving. If your mirrors are not separated, complete a PS Form 4565 and ask VMF to separate them at least 2" for optimum visibility.

PLEASE POST AT TIMECLOCKS

Safe Driver Program

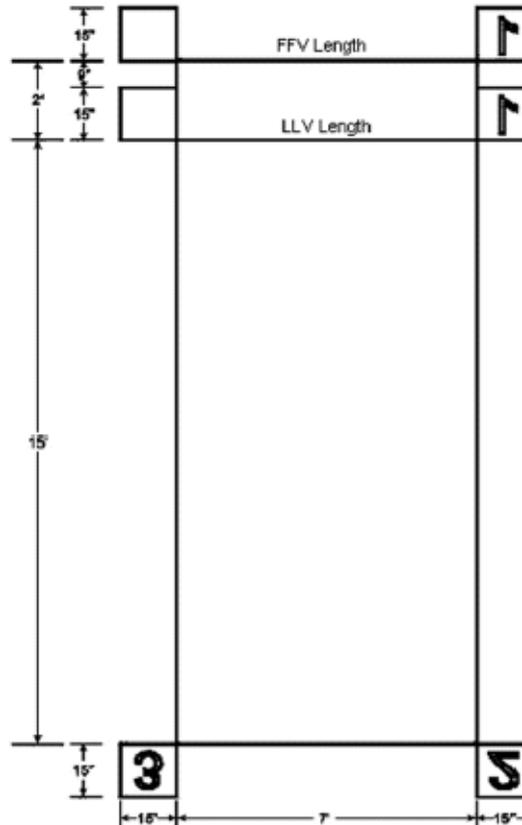
Exhibit A-1 Mirror Adjustment Station

This is a diagram of the painted lines and squares for a mirror adjustment station (MAS) used to accommodate both LLVs and FFVs.

The MAS is 7 feet wide and 15 to 17 feet long. An LLV is 15 feet long; an FFV is 17 feet long.

At this station all seven mirrors will be properly adjusted so the driver can see:

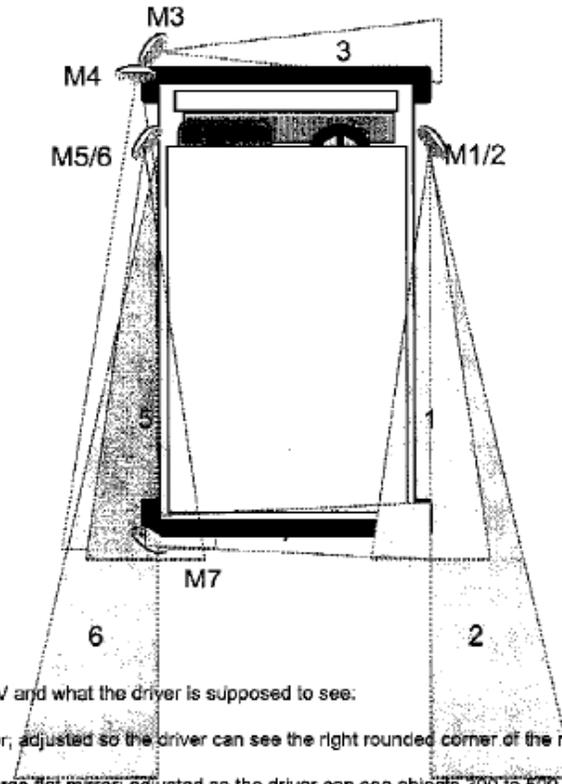
- Three corners of the station.
- Front and rear bumpers.
- Right and left sides of the vehicle.



Note: If the numbers 2 and 3 are painted backwards and upside down, the driver sees them correctly when looking into the rearview mirror.



From Behind the Wheel; In the Rear View Mirrors



Mirrors on the LLV/FFV and what the driver is supposed to see:

M1 Right convex mirror; adjusted so the driver can see the right rounded corner of the rear bumper.

M2 Right-hand side, large flat mirror; adjusted so the driver can see objects 300 to 500 feet to the rear and a small portion of the right-hand side of the vehicle.

M3 Front pot-lid mirror; adjusted so the driver can see the front bumper corner.

M4 Left-hand side pot-lid mirror; adjusted so the driver can see the entire left side of the LLV or FFV from the front-marker light to the rear bumper and beyond.

M5 Left-hand side convex mirror; adjusted so the driver can see a small portion of the left side of the vehicle.

M6 Left-hand side, large flat mirror; adjusted so the driver can see objects 300 to 500 feet to the rear and a small portion of the left side of the LLV or FFV. The driver must also be able to see the high pot-lid mirror (M7) on the rear of the vehicle.

M7 Pot-lid mirror used in conjunction with M6 on the upper left corner of the LLV or FFV; adjusted so the driver can see the entire rear bumper.