



BERMUDA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS
P.O. Box HM 1837, Hamilton HM HX
Website: www.biam.bm

Improving your powers of observation and anticipation **No. 4 in the 'BIAM Six Pack' Series of Guidance Notes**

Using Observation Links

An accurate forecast of traffic movements and dangers ahead can often be made by **observing quite small details in the road conditions around you**. It is frequently possible to notice something and **to link what is seen** with the possibility of something else happening, thus providing early intelligence on a potential hazard or even an accident. A complete and exhaustive list is impossible but these examples will give you a general idea of what to look for and how to improve your powers of anticipation:

- a. Traffic turning ahead** - other vehicles might **emerge** from this junction.
- b. A bus stopping** - passengers or children might run to catch the bus and **into your path** or they might alight from the bus and step into the road.
- c. Approaching supermarkets or gas stations** - vehicles may suddenly turn or emerge **without warning**
- d. Brake lights** suddenly showing **or a puff of smoke** from the exhaust of a parked vehicle - the vehicle may suddenly enter traffic **without warning**
- e. Debris** (small branches or leaves) in the road ahead - a large vehicle ahead of you might have brought down **wires or branches**
- f. A cyclist ahead** glances over his shoulder when approaching a junction - might suddenly turn **without warning**
- g. A tourist on a livery cycle** - where there is one, there may usually be more, as they **rarely travel alone**
- h. Garbage or recycle bags** on the side of the road - trash/recycle trucks might be in the vicinity (**on the wrong side of the road**)
- i. A row of parked cars** - doors might suddenly open without warning or pedestrians may **step out** from between vehicles
- j. A slow moving taxi** ahead - might **suddenly stop** to collect or drop off a fare.

This guidance is adapted from the
Bermuda Institute of Advanced Motorists Advanced/Defensive Driving Course Manual
by Roger Kendall (Price: \$25.00)

Copies are available from local bookstores or by mail order by contacting the BIAM Secretary via the BIAM website www.biam.bm or BIAM Secretary, PO BOX 1837, Hamilton, HM AX (please send a cheque for \$27.50 (includes P&P) made payable to Bermuda Institute of Advanced Motorists).