

REVIEW OF RESEARCH TO INFORM THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HAZARD PERCEPTION TEST FOR NOVICE DRIVERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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ABSTRACT:

A driver constantly needs to be aware of his or her driving within a specific traffic environment. 'Situational Awareness' is the term used to describe the level of awareness drivers have to apply in the driving environment, specifically to hazards that may be present. The ability to respond appropriately to hazards is a direct consequence of this awareness. Research has shown that awareness skills are largely lacking in novice drivers primarily due to their inexperience: hazard perception skills are developed and improved over time. South African research shows that locally novice drivers are also overrepresented in crash statistics. However little evidence as to why is available. This review provides an overview and synthesis of available international and local research related to hazard perception and aims to provide baseline information that serves as an introduction to South African research focussing on novice driver hazard perception within the South African road environment.