

Road Accidents Preventions

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ABSTRACT

Best-practice road safety strategies focus upon the prevention of serious injury and death crashes in spite of human fallibility (which is contrasted with the old road safety paradigm of simply reducing crashes assuming road user compliance with traffic regulations). Safe road design is now about providing a road environment which ensures vehicle speeds will be within the human tolerances for serious injury and death wherever conflict points exist.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Road traffic safety refers to methods and measures for reducing the risk of a person using the road network being killed or seriously injured. The users of a road include pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, their passengers, and passengers of on-road public transport, mainly buses and trams. Best-practice road safety strategies focus upon the prevention of serious injury and death crashes in spite of human fallibility (which is contrasted with the old road safety paradigm of simply reducing crashes assuming road user compliance with traffic regulations). Safe road design is now about providing a road environment which ensures vehicle speeds will be within the human tolerances for serious injury and death wherever conflict points exist.

HOW TO PREVENT ROAD ACCIDENTS

- Most important method to bring down accidents is strict enforcement of speed limits. 90 % of accidents can be avoided by strict enforcement of speed limits. Existing speed limits should be brought down further.
- Heavy Penalty should be imposed on ALL those who cross speed limits. If this is strictly implemented, nobody will dare to go at high speed. Heavy penalty should be imposed for those who cause accidents.
- Tamper proof speed controllers should be made mandatory for all heavy vehicles. New heavy vehicles should have built in tamper proof speed controllers.
- Two wheeler manufacturers should be asked to design two wheelers with a designed maximum speed of (say) 50/60 kmph. (Suitable speed limit may be selected for each country.)
- New gadgets are to be developed for collision prevention and should be fitted on all vehicles. Research organizations should be asked to develop such gadgets on a war footing. For example, gadgets can be developed to automatically slow down the vehicle, if safe distance commensurate with the speed of the vehicle in front is not maintained.
- Diving tests for issue of Driving license is to be made more stringent and foolproof. Raising of lower age limit for two wheeler and Heavy Vehicle license to 21.
- Helmet should be made compulsory by law in all states, OR impose a lower speed limit for those who do not use helmet. Helmet should be made compulsory for back seat riders also.
- Ensure that all Helmet users are fixing the Chinstrap of Helmet. Otherwise it will not help during an accident. Ensure that ONLY good quality Helmets are available in the market. Strict enforcement of existing traffic rules.
- Law should be modified such that the person who made the accident has to bear (say) 0 to 10 % of the insurance claims, depending on severity of negligence. Also the compensations should be made very huge, making accidents unaffordable so that everyone will be very vigilant.
- All those who do not maintain the safe distance for the speed should be punished.
- Safety awareness should begin from childhood, as it is difficult to impart awareness to a grown up a human. If safety awareness is imparted at childhood, safety will be a habit.
- Video / Computer Games that simulate Racing should be banned by Government OR discouraged by parents as it will develop racing habit in children.

- All sorts of Motor sports especially racing should be banned by government. Telecast of Motor Sports and Racing also should be banned.
- Racing and over speed / highly risky riding, driving by Heroes should not be filmed in cinemas and TV serials. Government should censor such scenes.
- Children below a certain age should not be permitted to do cycling in busy roads / roads where heavy vehicles are plying.
- Refreshment parlors should be made available at (say) every 50 / 100 k.m. on all national highways and truck / heavy vehicle drivers should be forced to refresh by having a face wash or by having a cup of tea / coffee.
- The current practice of keeping the traffic signals in standby mode during nights and on holidays is to be reviewed and discontinued if found prudent.
- Advertisement boards and other items that may obstruct visibility at junctions, curvatures and other parts of the roads should be removed immediately.
- Ensure that the money recovered as Road Tax is fully utilized for the construction /maintenance of roads.
- Time Punching of Private buses (practiced in some states) should be discontinued as it is forcing the drivers to go at high speed, after traffic blocks.
- TV and other media should be effectively used for Public safety awareness. Scientific analysis of major accidents / accident prone areas. Restriction of speed at accident prone areas.
- Enactment of stringent traffic rules. Immediate suspension of license of those who are involved the accidents, at least until they prove that they are not guilty. Cancellation of license of those who make serious accidents.
- Proper maintenance of roads. Permanent contracts / arrangements should be in place for maintaining all roads in good condition 24 hours a day, 365 days an year. If a gutter is repaired in time it can save a life!!!
- Strict enforcement of health of vehicles. Periodic eye testing of old aged driving license holders. Immediate cancellation of license of drunkard drivers / riders.
- Setting up of Judicial Commissions to monitor steps taken to control road accidents. Straightening / Widening of roads, Implementation of one way traffic and construction of medians.
- Footpaths and medians should be made mandatory for important roads. Zebra crossings should be provided for pedestrians for safe road crossings at appropriate places.

- Signals for road crossings at important busy places where a large number of people have to cross the road everyday. Proper marking of roads and signals.
- Humps should be provided at all important places, accident prone areas. Construction, size and shape of the Humps be scientific. All the Contractors of the Public Works / Other departments should be provided with the details of scientific Hump construction
- Humps should be clearly marked, to avoid accidents. Methods of permanent nature should be followed in Hump marking. For example white marble pieces / white color / fluorescent pigment can be included in the mixture (if scientifically correct).
- Provision of small pilot humps few meters before humps can also be considered to ensure that humps are not left unnoticed. Elimination of obstructions on road sides caused by unauthorized construction / road side sales.
- Increasing visibility near curvatures. Sometimes even cutting of grass to increase visibility can help save many lives.
- Road Safety Day / Road Safety Week should be observed in all Schools, every year. Competitions on Road Safety Tips, Slogans, Essay, and Painting etc should be conducted for various categories of students.
- School Buses should be painted with Bright Yellow color. Let 'Road Safety' be a mandatory topic for School Projects for all classes, every year.
- A small pool of water or a hanging branch of tree on roadsides can cause accident, as such obstructions will make the pedestrians / drivers to take sudden LATERAL movement and result in accidents. Hence any obstruction on road sides which can cause a LATERAL movement should be completely rectified timely.
- Black color should not be permitted for Cycles. Preferred / Default color for Cycles should be Yellow.

Road Safety Slogans

- Life's short, don't rush it
- It' better late than never.
- Chance takers are accident makers.
- If you want to stay married, divorce speed.
- Be alert! Accidents hurt.
- Hug your kids at home, but belt them in the car!
- Normal speed meets every need.
- You can't get home, unless you are safe
- Alert today - Alive tomorrow
- Leave sooner, drive slower, live longer.
- Night doubles traffic troubles.
- Stop accidents before they stop you.
- Better to arrive late than never.
- Speed Thrills But Kills.
- Don't Drink and drive
- Better be Mister Late than to be Late Mister.
- Are you tired - Take a break
- Keep your child safe - Teach him road safety
- Think, anticipate, and avoid accidents.
- Kill your speeds not a child.
- Give way to pedestrians.

The Conclusion

The prevention which are given above should be necessary for the purpose of road safety measuring. To adopt the given instructions we can help in minimizing the road accidents.

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