



<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>THE RISK OF SPEEDING</b>
<b>RESOURCES</b>	NSW Speed fact sheet Website link to road deaths in the last 10 years Heavy Vehicle Annual Report

## REMEMBER SPEEDING CAN CAUSE ACCIDENTS

### Facilitator:

**Speeding is the biggest killer on Australian roads and accounts for many of our country's fatalities and serious injuries. Before you get behind the wheel it is essential to be aware of the risks involved.**

*Question for participants:*

**What do you think is some of the five biggest fatal driving behaviours?**

### Answers:

- **Speeding**
- **Driving under the influence**
- **Not wearing seat belts**
- **Fatigue**
- **Distraction**

### 2021 Statistics<sup>1</sup>

- In 2021, a total of 163 people were killed in crashes involving heavy trucks. This represents 15.4 per cent of total road deaths.
- Of the people killed in these fatal crashes, approximately 50 per cent are occupants in a light vehicle, 25 per cent are occupants in the heavy truck and 25 per cent are other road users (pedestrian, motorcyclist or pedal cyclist).
- The latest hospitalisation data (2019) shows that approximately 510 heavy truck occupants are hospitalised from road crashes each year.

Actual annual statistics – see reference link<sup>2</sup> to Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications & the Arts - data.



## **THE RISK OF SPEEDING** **Speeding is a high-risk behaviour.**

Speeding heavy vehicles are at a greater risk of being involved in a motor vehicle incident and statistics show more fatal crashes occur on roads where the speed limit is greater than or equal to 100 km/h.

As the speed increases, so does the time and distance required to stop a heavy vehicle. In fact, at any speed, for every extra 1km/h of speed:

- the stopping distance increases,
- more time is needed to react and avoid a crash,
- the impact of the crash is more severe,
- the likelihood of serious injury or death increases.

Speeding is not just driving faster than the posted speed limit, also for the weather conditions, light (eg: sunrise), traffic and road conditions.

Research statistics shows that for every 5km/h over a 60 km/h speed zone, the risk of a casualty crash doubles. Exceeding the speed limit by more than 10 km/h increases your risk of crashing by four times.

The faster you drive:

- the less time you must respond to hazards,
- the harder it is to turn or take other evasive action,
- the vehicle travels further and takes longer to stop once you hit the brakes.

It is particularly important for heavy vehicles to reduce their speeds in lower speed zones, including highways, due to risks such as roadwork sites and increased traffic at intersections.

60 meters is needed to safely stop a heavy vehicle being driven at 60 km per hour, every extra touch on the accelerator adds meters to that distance. For heavy vehicles in particular, speeding is not just an offence you could commit when you travel faster than the speed limit. Some states and territories apply limits to heavy vehicles that do not apply to other vehicles within the same speed zone.

Aside from exceeding legal speed limits, you are subject to dangerous driving offences if you travel at speeds that are unsafe for the load you are carrying or in certain road conditions, such as around corners, on steep descents and in foggy, wet or icy conditions.

Speeding can:

- Affect the heavy vehicle's stability, steering and braking performance resulting in the driver losing control of the vehicle.
- Excessive or inappropriate speed when cornering or negotiating a roundabout, even at lower speeds, increases the risk of the heavy vehicle losing control and rolling over.
- Other risk factors include not driving at a safe speed for the conditions or failing to follow advisory and variable speed limits.



# COR RISK OF SPEEDING TOOLBOX TALK



Items Raised/Corrective Action	Action By	Action completed	
		Sign off	Date

**DATE:**.....

**FACILITATOR SIGNATURE**.....

# Speed



## Speeding is the biggest contributor to road trauma on NSW roads.

Each year almost 140 people die and 1,145 people are seriously injured in NSW from speed-related crashes.

Speeding is not just travelling above the designated speed limit, but also driving too fast for the conditions (e.g. wet weather and curves in the road).

### The facts

- ▶ Most speeding deaths occur at no more than 10km/h over the speed limit.
- ▶ In NSW, speeding consistently contributes to around 41 per cent of road fatalities and 24 per cent of serious injuries each year.
- ▶ If you're going 10 km/h over in a 60 km/h zone, you're four times as likely to be involved in a crash.
- ▶ More than half of NSW drivers admit to speeding at least some of the time.
- ▶ Going 5km/h over in a 60km/h zone on an average commute saves you just 75 seconds and doubles your crash risk.
- ▶ 69 per cent of speed-related casualty crashes in NSW in 2018–20 happened on a curve.

## The faster you go, the harder you hit

No matter what causes a crash, vehicle speed directly affects the force of the impact and the resulting trauma outcome.

### ▶ Pedestrian crash

There is a 10 per cent risk that a pedestrian will be killed if hit by a modern car at 30km/h. At a 50km/h impact speed, the risk increases to 90 per cent.\*

### ▶ Side impact crash with another vehicle

There is a 10 per cent risk that a person in a safe car will be killed if they crash at speed of up to 45–50km/h. At a 70km/h impact speed, the risk increases to 80 per cent.

### ▶ Side impact crash with a tree/pole

Because the energy is concentrated on a smaller area, side impact crashes with a narrow, fixed object, like a tree or pole, are less survivable than those with another vehicle, and the fatality risk at 45–50km/h is much higher.

### ▶ Head on/frontal impact with another vehicle

There is a 10 per cent risk of a driver/passenger being killed at collision speeds up to 70km/h. At 90km/h the risk is up to 80 per cent. This is why speed limits are often set lower when there are no central barriers to protect motorists from oncoming vehicles.

With increased speed, the amount of energy released in a crash increases. It is inevitable that some of this energy will be absorbed by the human body. However, the human body can only withstand limited forces before injury or death occurs.

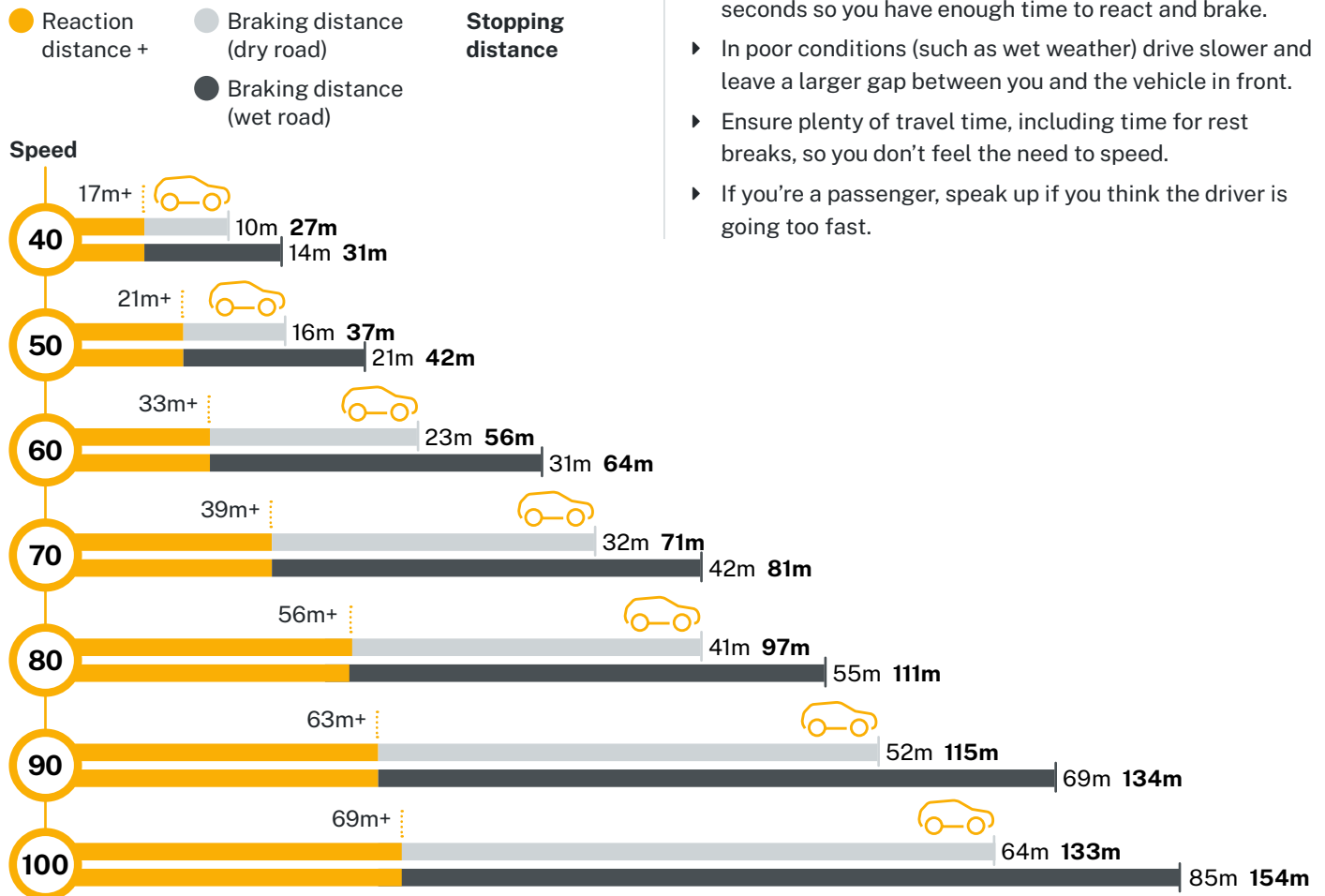
Pedestrians and bicycle riders are particularly vulnerable as they are unprotected during a crash.

## The faster you go, the greater your risk of a crash

As speed increases, so does the likelihood of serious injury or death. This is because:

- ▶ The driver has less time to react to a hazard.
- ▶ The distance travelled before coming to a stop is greater.
- ▶ The speed upon impact is greater.

The combined effects of reaction and braking times in both wet and dry conditions is illustrated below.



## How can I stay safe?

- ▶ Regularly check your speed to ensure you are travelling within the posted speed limit. The Speed Adviser smartphone app ([roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/speeding/speedadviser](https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/speeding/speedadviser)) can help by providing the speed limit on all NSW roads and alerting you when the speed limit changes.
- ▶ Follow speed advisory signs. This will help ensure you drive through that section of road safely.
- ▶ Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front (usually a three second gap). When travelling at higher speeds, increase the distance to allow at least five seconds so you have enough time to react and brake.
- ▶ In poor conditions (such as wet weather) drive slower and leave a larger gap between you and the vehicle in front.
- ▶ Ensure plenty of travel time, including time for rest breaks, so you don't feel the need to speed.
- ▶ If you're a passenger, speak up if you think the driver is going too fast.

### More information

Visit the Transport for NSW road safety website ([roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/speeding](https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/speeding)) for information on travelling at safe speeds, to download the Speed Adviser smartphone app, and to learn about other important road safety topics.



Scan the QR code for more information on road safety



If you're driving for work, visit the Towards Zero website ([towardszero.nsw.gov.au/workplace](https://towardszero.nsw.gov.au/workplace)) to complete the Road safety: Everybody's business online learning course to learn about road safety risk and how you can stay safe on NSW roads.

**Table I.2 Deaths from crashes involving heavy trucks by state/territory**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>Any heavy truck involved</b>									
2012	72	45	73	17	29	6	3	0	245
2013	53	28	52	15	27	2	4	0	181
2014	51	56	39	27	21	6	0	2	202
2015	57	41	48	18	18	9	1	1	193
2016	56	40	40	18	19	7	5	1	186
2017	79	38	33	11	22	7	1	0	191
2018	52	24	53	10	17	4	0	0	160
2019	55	45	36	28	17	5	1	1	188
2020	56	35	46	10	18	6	1	0	172
2021	52	29	48	13	13	4	2	2	163
Change last 12 months (%)	-7.1	-17.1	4.3	30.0	-27.8	-33.3	100.0	-	-5.2
Ave. trend change p.a.(%)									
- for last 10 calendar years	-1.3	-3.1	-2.9	-4.3	-6.5	0.4	-	-	-2.9
- for last 3 calendar years	-2.8	-19.7	15.5	-31.9	-12.6	-10.6	41.4	-	-6.9
<b>Articulated truck involved</b>									
2012	50	30	45	10	17	3	2	0	157
2013	32	15	35	11	16	2	4	0	115
2014	31	27	31	12	10	3	0	2	116
2015	34	21	28	15	11	3	0	1	113
2016	26	22	25	11	13	6	5	1	109
2017	49	20	19	6	11	1	0	0	106
2018	26	14	29	6	12	2	0	0	89
2019	23	22	18	23	10	2	0	1	99
2020	28	23	35	5	10	2	1	0	104
2021	27	14	40	10	11	2	2	0	106
Change last 12 months (%)	-3.6	-39.1	14.3	100.0	10.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	1.9
Ave. trend change p.a.(%)									
- for last 10 calendar years	-4.8	-3.7	-2.4	-3.3	-4.2	-5.1	-	-	-3.4
- for last 3 calendar years	8.3	-20.2	49.1	-34.1	4.9	0.0	-	-	3.5
<b>Heavy rigid truck involved</b>									
2012	23	15	30	7	13	4	1	0	93
2013	24	13	17	4	12	0	0	0	70
2014	21	29	8	15	11	3	0	0	87
2015	25	20	21	3	7	6	1	0	83
2016	32	19	15	7	7	2	0	0	82
2017	33	20	15	5	14	6	1	0	94
2018	29	10	27	5	6	2	0	0	79
2019	34	24	18	5	7	3	1	0	92
2020	29	12	11	5	9	4	0	0	70
2021	26	16	9	3	2	2	0	2	60
Change last 12 months (%)	-10.3	33.3	-18.2	-40.0	-77.8	-50.0	0.0	-	-14.3
Ave. trend change p.a.(%)									
- for last 10 calendar years	3.3	-1.8	-5.4	-6.1	-11.9	-	-	-	-2.2
- for last 3 calendar years	-12.6	-18.4	-29.3	-22.5	-46.5	-18.4	-	-	-19.2