Learning Objectives

• To gain background information on work related injuries as a result of rear end collisions
• Become familiar with where and why rear end collisions occur
• To gain knowledge on prevention strategies and defensive driving tips
• To realize what can be done to within an organization to prevent rear end collisions
Background

• The Ontario Road Safety Annual Report in 2005:
  • 30% of incidents are rear end collisions
    • Approx. 8,000 personal injury
    • Approx. 25,000 involving property damage
  • WSIB claims for the Health and Community Care sector workers in 2008 indicated that rear end collisions accounted for 54.5% of motor vehicle incidents
MVI Statistics: WSIB Claims 2008 (Health/Community Care Workers)

MVI WSIB Claims 2008 for Health and Community Care Workers

- Rear End Collisions: 54, 51%
- Failure to Stop: 16, 15%
- Multitasking/Distraction: 7, 7%
- Failure to Stay in Lane: 9, 8%
- Ice/Snow: 3, 3%
- Fog/Rain: 3, 3%
- Wildlife: 1, 1%
- Following Too Closely: 1, 1%
- Failure to Yield: 1, 1%
- Driving Too Fast: 2, 2%
- Inadequate Maintenance: 1, 1%
- Unknown: 7, 7%

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Where do Rear End Collisions Occur?

- Approaching unexpected traffic zones
  - Construction areas
  - Merging where a road narrows
  - Urban Streets
- High Volume traffic areas
  - Main intersections
  - School Zones
  - Parking lots
Where Do Rear End Collisions Occur?

- Urban Streets, 31, 59%
- Highway, 3, 6%
- Intersection, 11, 21%
- 400 Series Highway, 1, 2%
- Parking Lot, 3, 6%
- Unknown, 3, 6%
Reasons Why Rear End Collisions Occur?

• Driver inattention
• Constantly changing environments causing distraction
• Inability to perceive appropriate braking distance
• Following too closely (tailgating)
Standard Accident Prevention Formula

• See – recognize the hazard
• Think – make a decision to respond
• Do – respond appropriately in a timely manner
Strategy

• When stopped at an intersection:
  • Ensure the tires of the car ahead can be seen
  • Scan all mirrors on the vehicle
  • Use four way flashers or honk the horn to alert the car approaching from behind
  • Move to the shoulder or an outside lane that is not intending for oncoming traffic
Defensive Driving Tips

- The Brake Alert System
  - Move the foot off of the accelerator and place it lightly over the brake in perceived problem areas such as intersections, school zones, parking lots and construction sites.

- The Timed Interval Strategy
  - Measurement of safe following distance that is dependent upon the type of vehicle and environmental conditions of the road conditions.
How to Use the Timed Interval Strategy

• Calculations are done by taking the length of the vehicle in metres and divide it by 3 (to allow 1 second for every 3 metres) for a safe following distance.

• Example:
  • A standard car is 6 metres
  • Divide 6 metres by 3 seconds per metre
  • Equals 2 seconds for safe following distance
  • Add 1 second for each environmental condition present: rain, snow, ice, hail, fog, etc.
What can be done?

- Health and safety policies should include commitment to promote safe driving practices
- Enforce driver alertness and awareness
- Take proactive vs. reactive measures
- Promote training on the prevention of rear end collisions
Where to get more information

Ontario Safety Association for Community and Health Care: http://www.osach.ca

Transportation Health and Safety Association of Ontario: http://www.thsao.on.ca


Ontario Ministry of Transportation: http://www.mto.gov.on.ca

Canadian Automobile Association: http://www.caa.ca
References


