



unsafe speed

Unsafe speed — defined as driving too fast for road and traffic conditions — is one of the most frequently cited contributing factors in police-reported car crashes.

Combined with other high-risk driving actions such as running red lights and stop signs and driving too closely behind other cars, drivers who engage in such behaviours are putting themselves and others at risk.

Slowing down and keeping your distance, being more realistic about travel times and showing more tolerance toward other drivers can reduce your risk of getting in a crash.

Speed-related collision trends

Annual averages over the last five years (2003 - 2007). Averages are based on police-reported data.

- 8,200 speed-related collisions injure 5,500 people and result in 161 fatalities.
- 50 per cent of all fatalities and injuries in speed-related collisions occur on a weekend (Friday, Saturday or Sunday).
- The peak hours for fatalities due to speed-related collisions are between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.

The faster you go, the longer it takes you to stop.

Travelling at an unsafe speed is dangerous because you need time to see and react before your brakes take effect and slow you down.

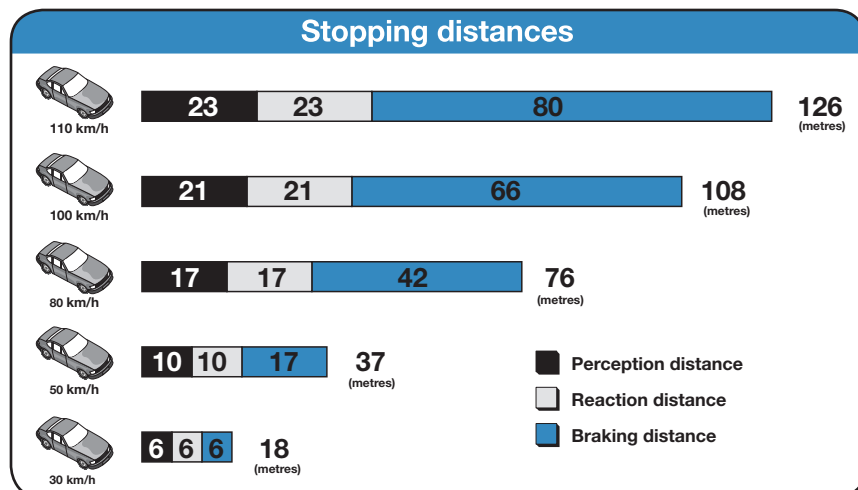
Stopping your vehicle is more than just pressing on the brake pedal.

Total stopping distance is the distance your vehicle will travel from the moment you:

- See** – a hazard
- Think** – decide to stop
- Do** – place your foot on the brake pedal until you stop.

When you see a problem ahead while driving, it will take you about three-quarters of a second to **See-Think** and another three-quarters of a second of **Do**. Only then will your vehicle begin to slow.

When you're choosing a speed, keep this in mind. Whenever you double your speed, your braking distance is multiplied by four. In wet or icy road conditions, it's even more.



Note: the stopping distances shown are under ideal driving conditions; wet or slippery conditions due to poor weather will mean stopping distances will be longer. Please use caution at all times.

The faster you drive, the harder you hit.

Force of impact, like braking distance, increases as you go faster. If you double your speed, you hit four times as hard.

The faster you go, the more you pay.

Escalating speeding fines		
Location	Km/h over the speed limit	Ticketed amount (includes 15 per cent Victim Surcharge Levy)
Highways and municipal speed zones	1 – 20	\$138
	21 – 40	\$196
	41 – 60	\$368
	61 +	\$483
School, playground and construction zones	1 – 20	\$196
	21 – 40	\$253
	41 – 60	\$368
	61 +	\$483

* Most fines may be reduced by \$25 if paid within 30 days

Driver Risk Premium program

As well, as of January 2009, drivers who have one or more excessive speeding convictions will pay a Driver Risk Premium (DRP). The DRP currently applies to certain offences that occurred on or after January 1, 2008 and when it is fully implemented, DRP will be based on convictions over a three-year period. The additional premium will be paid on top of the yearly cost of auto insurance and any excessive-speeding convictions.

Safety tips:

- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance. Allow at least two seconds of following distance in good weather and road conditions, and at least three seconds on a highway.
- Slow down on wet roads, in bad weather conditions, or on uneven roads. Increase your following distance to at least four seconds. Also increase your following distance when you're behind a large vehicle that could block your vision, or following a motorcycle that could stop very quickly.
- If a collision seems unavoidable, steer to the right. Head towards the least harmful option, preferably an object that will give way on impact, such as a bush. The most harmful option is a head-on crash, where the force of impact is doubled.
- Don't speed up as someone is trying to pass you — it's illegal. Help the other driver get back into your lane by slowing down and making room.
- Be realistic about your travel time. Allow time for possible delays because of traffic, construction or bad weather.
- If you're going to be later than you expected — deal with it. Take a deep breath and accept the delay. Like they say, better late than never.



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