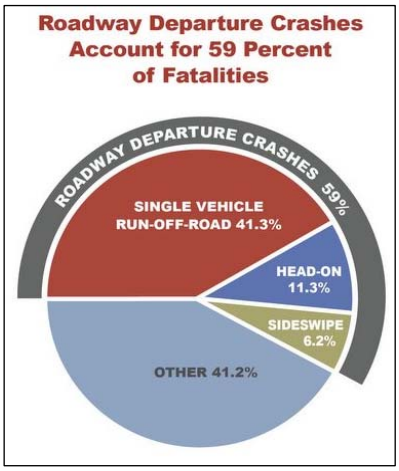
Roadway Departure Safety



Roadway Departure (RD) crashes are the largest U.S. safety problem. FHWA's Roadway Departure Safety Program focuses on:

- Keeping vehicles on the roadway.
- Alerting drivers to conditions.
- Mitigating crash severity.
- Strategic use of countermeasures.

FHWA Promotes a Strategic Approach

Crash analyses and safety action plans are important efforts, but not sufficient to adequately address roadway departure crashes, the major cause of highway deaths nationwide. FHWA strongly supports using an established strategic initiative for prioritizing and implementing a safety program that includes appropriate countermeasures.

FHWA's RD Program provides technical and other assistance for all levels of Federal, State DOT and local agency transportation personnel, from top management to maintenance. The Office of Safety RD Team is FHWA's contact for the AASHTO Technical Committee on Roadside Safety, the Roadside Design Guide revision, the AASHTO/FHWA Implementation Plan for the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH-08), and the update to NCHRP 350 (Recommended Procedures for the Safety Performance Evaluation of Highway Features).

FHWA's focused approach identifies States which have the greatest opportunities for reducing highway fatalities. The 17 current RD Focus States have had two-lane rural RD fatalities and fatality rates above the national average: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Washington.

While technical products will be available to practitioners in all States, assistance for Focus States includes:

- Multi-level management and technical site visits.
- Quarterly Focus State web conferences and technical webinars.
- Technical products in multi-media formats.

Technical Efforts and Products

NEW: Median Barriers – A Solution to Cross-Median Crashes (DVD). Highway agencies' design standards need to reflect the latest AASHTO Roadside Design Guide (2006), which recommends that barriers be placed in all medians 50 feet wide or less. Publication # FHWA-SA-08-007.

Horizontal Curve Safety: Low-Cost Treatments for Horizontal Curve Safety (Guide). Twenty-five percent of fatalities occur at or near a horizontal curve. Publication # FHWA-SA-07-002. This practical guide is also online: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/pubs/sa07002/horizontalcurves.pdf.

Pavement Safety: The Safety Edge (Revised Brochure). The tapered wedge that mitigates pavement edge drop-offs can reduce crashes and decrease tort liability. Publication # FHWA-SA-07-023. This brochure is also available online: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/docs/sa07023/sa07023.pdf.

Rumble Strips: A Sound Investment (DVD). Shoulder, edge, and centerline rumble strips and rumble stripes are cost-effective and proven to save lives by reducing crashes. Publication # FHWA-SA-07-024.

Roadside Hardware: Guidelines for the Selection of W-Beam Barrier Terminals (CD). "Must" viewing for those responsible for selecting, locating, installing, or repairing guardrail terminals. Publication # FHWA-SA-06-19.

Safer Sign Supports: Are Yours Breakaway Yet? (Brochure). Advocates replacing rigid sign poles with breakaway supports. Signs on highways posted 50 mph or more must be upgraded by 2013, with others upgraded when sign sheeting is replaced. Publication # FHWA-SA-06-14.

Roadside and Roadway Safety: Roadway Safety for Motorcycles: Tips for Designing, Constructing, and Maintaining Roadways for Increased Motorcycle Safety (Brochure). Publication # FHWA-SA-07-012.

Good Practices: Incorporating Safety into Resurfacing and Restoration Projects (Report and CD). FHWA, AASHTO, and NACE-sponsored domestic scan. Success factors and institutional practices, including the importance of commitments to integrating safety in projects. Publication # FHWA-SA-07-001.

Highway Safety and Trees: The Delicate Balance (DVD and Brochure). Addresses design solutions for the hazards of trees adjacent to roadways. Publication #s FHWA-SA-06-13 (DVD), FHWA-SA-06-12 (Brochure). The brochure is also available online at http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/treesbrochure.pdf.

Final Rule on Sign Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity. Revised the MUTCD with a new standard for maintaining a minimum level of retroreflectivity by 2012. Available Online: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/retro/200315149/.

Maintaining Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity (Brochure and Report). Publication # FHWA-SA-07-020 (Brochure). Also available online: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/retro/sa07020/ (Brochure), http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/retro/hrt08026/ (Report).

Rumors, Myths, and the Straight Facts about Retroreflective Sign Sheeting (Brochure).

Future Efforts and Products

- The Safety Edge (DVD): Demonstration of the Safety Edge pavement treatment.
- Highlights of each RD Focus State: Recommended effective practices and lessons learned.
- Ready-to-use RD PowerPoint presentations in formats for management and technical audiences.
- Maintaining Minimum Pavement Marking Retroreflectivity – proposed rulemaking.
- Landscaping guidance that balances safety and the environment.

For More Information

For copies of publications, CDs, or DVDs (at no charge), contact the FHWA Report Distribution Center at 301-577-0906 (phone), 301-577-1421 (fax), or report.center@fhwa.dot.gov, specifying the title and product/publication number.



For more information, visit http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/index.htm or contact:

The FHWA Division Office Safety Specialist in your State.

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