



SPEEDING

Speeding continues to be a major factor in road crashes.

Speeding

It is important to understand that travelling at an inappropriate speed can put you and other road users at risk.

Inappropriate speed is defined as:

- travelling at excess speed, ie. faster than the speed limit posted on a particular stretch of road;
- or
- travelling at a speed that is unsafe for the road and traffic conditions (e.g. bad weather or heavy traffic) even though it may be within the speed limit.

What risks are involved in speeding?

- Increased chance of being fined
- Increased reaction distance
- Increased braking distance
- Increased risk of being involved in a crash.

Why does speeding increase the risk of crashing?

Research shows that the risk of crashing increases if you are speeding because:

- you have less time to notice hazards (like a child running onto the road ahead of you)
- if you do notice a hazard, you have less time to react and then take action
- the stopping distance is longer

- it increases the risk of losing control of your vehicle
- other road users may misjudge the approach of a speeding vehicle.

How does speeding increase the severity of crashes?

The faster you are travelling when you crash, the greater the impact.

The human body is not designed to cushion the effects of a crash, so the greater the impact, the greater the injuries to those involved.

Research has shown that:

- a driver crashing at an impact speed of 80 km/h is thirty two times more likely to be killed or injured as a driver crashing with an impact speed of 60 km/h.

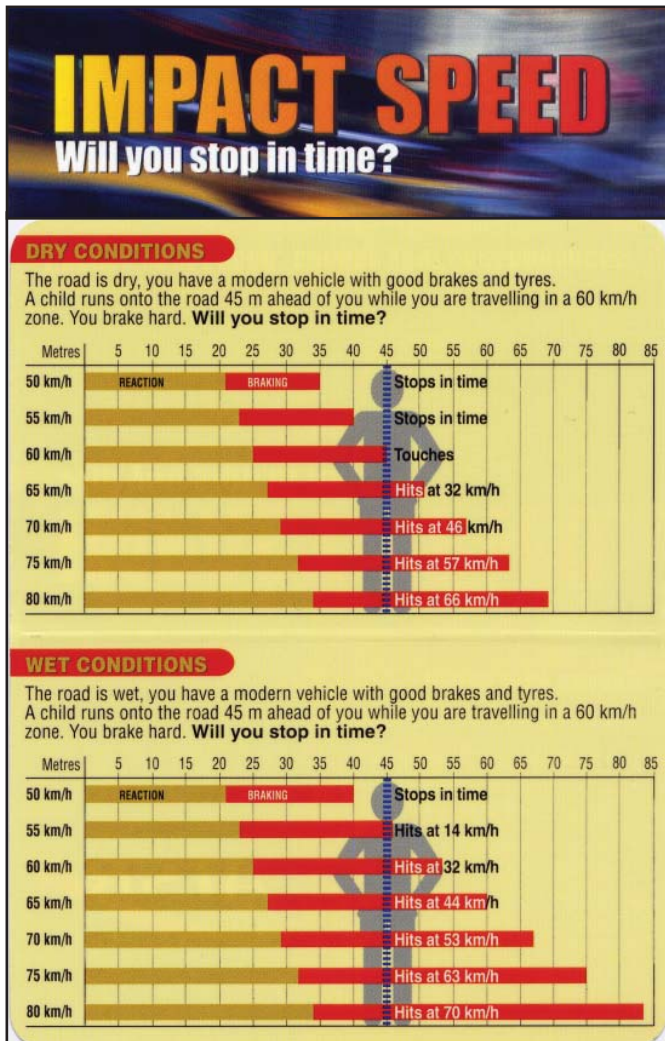


Car vs Tree. Cause: Excessive Speed and Loss of Control.

SPEEDING

Speed greatly increases your overall stopping distance

Travelling faster will greatly increase the distance required to stop your vehicle in an emergency.



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Internet address for above pocket guide:
http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/safety/publications/2005/pdf/Impact_speed.pdf

Speeding saves little time and costs money ...

On most trips, speeding will save you little time. For example, on a 10 km journey, you would save 46 seconds by increasing your average speed from 60 km/h to 65 km/h.

While time savings would be greater on a longer journey, these would be balanced by the cost of using more fuel. You use more fuel if you travel above 90 km/h in a car and more than 80 km/h in a truck.

What are the consequences of speeding?

- you increase the risk of serious injury or death to you or other people in your car
- you increase the chances of killing other motorists or pedestrians
- heavy fines
- immediate loss of licence
- demerit points.

Tips to avoid speeding

- Always stay within the posted speed limit.
- Watch out for changes in the speed limit.
- If you are slowing down from a high speed, check your speedometer - especially in the country - it can be hard to judge after travelling at a high speed for a long period of time.
- In poor road and weather conditions, you may need to travel at a speed lower than the posted speed limit.
- Use the vehicle over-speed warning device if fitted. An over-speed warning device is useful in both urban and rural areas.

For further information, contact:
South Australia Police, Traffic Training and Promotion Section Phone: (08) 8207 6586 Fax: (08) 8207 6593
Email: DLSAPOLTrafficTrngandPromotions@police.sa.gov.au Internet: www.police.sa.gov.au

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