

## FATAL HEAVY VEHICLE CRASHES, MARCH 2009

### KEY POINTS:

- During the 12 months ended March 2009, 138 people were killed in 124 crashes involving articulated trucks. The number of fatal crashes involving articulated trucks decreased by 16.2 per cent compared to the year ended March 2008.
- During the 12 months ended March 2009, 90 people were killed in 86 crashes involving rigid trucks. The number of fatal crashes involving rigid trucks increased by 2.4 per cent compared to the year ended March 2008.
- Over the 3 years ended March 2009, the number of fatal crashes involving articulated trucks decreased by an average of 3.4 per cent per year. In contrast, the number of fatal crashes involving rigid trucks increased by an average of 8 per cent per year.

### FATAL CRASHES INVOLVING ARTICULATED TRUCKS

During the 12 months ended March 2009, 138 people were killed in 124 crashes involving articulated trucks.

The number of fatal crashes involving articulated trucks:

- decreased by 16.2 per cent compared to the year ended March 2008, when 183 people were killed in 148 crashes; and
- decreased by an average of 3.4 per cent per year over the three years ended March 2009.

Of the 138 people killed in these crashes:

- 87 (63 per cent) were vehicle drivers<sup>1</sup>;
- 19 (14 per cent) were passengers;
- 20 (14 per cent) were pedestrians;
- 9 (7 per cent) were motorcyclists;
- 3 (2 per cent) were cyclists.

<sup>1</sup> The driver road user category in the heavy vehicle crash statistics covers all vehicle drivers. The ATA has recommended that the BITRE should subdivide this category into light vehicle drivers and heavy vehicle drivers.

The 138 deaths were caused by the following types of crashes:

- 20 (14 per cent) were caused by crashes involving pedestrians;
- 29 (21 per cent) were caused by other single vehicle crashes;
- 89 (64 per cent) were caused by multiple vehicle crashes.

(Percentages do not add to 100 per cent due to rounding)

### **FATAL CRASHES INVOLVING RIGID TRUCKS**

During the 12 months ended March 2009, 90 people were killed in 86 crashes involving rigid trucks.

The number of fatal crashes involving rigid trucks:

- increased by 2.4 per cent compared to the year ended March 2008, when 91 people were killed in 84 crashes; and
- increased by an average of 8 per cent per year over the three years ended March 2009.

Of the 90 people killed in rigid truck crashes:

- 51 (57 per cent) were vehicle drivers;
- 10 (11 per cent) were passengers;
- 13 (14 per cent) were pedestrians;
- 11 (12 per cent) were motorcyclists;
- 4 (4 per cent) were cyclists.

(BITRE could not categorise one road user. Percentages do not add to 100 per cent due to rounding)

The 90 deaths were caused by the following types of crashes:

- 13 (14 per cent) were caused by crashes involving pedestrians;
- 11 (12 per cent) were caused by other single vehicle crashes;
- 66 (73 per cent) were caused by multiple vehicle crashes.

(Percentages do not add to 100 per cent due to rounding)

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

These figures are drawn from Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics, *Fatal Heavy Vehicle Crashes Australia, January-March 2009*.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

You can download the complete publication (including state by state breakdowns) from <http://tinyurl.com/hvcmarch09>.



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