

FACT SHEET

Shaping the outcome before reacting to operational issues



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FATAL HEAVY VEHICLE CRASHES – DECEMBER 2009

KEY POINTS

- During the 12 months ended December 2009, 144 people were killed in 119 crashes involving articulated trucks. The number of fatal crashes involving articulated trucks decreased by 7.8 per cent compared to the year ending December 2008.
- During the 12 months ended December 2009, 81 people were killed in 77 crashes involving rigid trucks. The number of fatal crashes involving rigid trucks decreased by 13.5 per cent compared to the year ended December 2008.
- The BITRE has done a detailed classification of 240 of the 245 deaths from heavy vehicle crashes in 2008. Heavy vehicle drivers or occupants accounted for 59 of those 230 deaths.

FATAL CRASHES INVOLVING ARTICULATED TRUCKS

During the 12 months ended December 2009, 144 people were killed in 119 crashes involving articulated trucks.

The number of fatal crashes involving articulated trucks:

- decreased by 7.8 per cent compared to the year ended December 2008, when 150 people were killed in 129 crashes; and
- decreased by an average of 7.0 per cent per year over the three years ended December 2009.

Of the 144 people killed in these crashes:

- 95 were vehicle drivers (66%) ¹;
- 25 were passengers (17%);
- 21 were pedestrians (15%);
- 3 were motorcyclists (2%);

The 144 deaths were caused by the following types of crashes:

- 21 were caused by crashes involving pedestrians (15%);
- 30 were caused by other single vehicle crashes (21%);
- 93 were caused by multiple vehicle crashes (65%).

¹ The driver road user category in these statistics covers all vehicle drivers killed in accidents involving heavy vehicles, including light vehicle drivers.

FATAL CRASHES INVOLVING RIGID TRUCKS

During the 12 months ended December 2009, 81 people were killed in 77 crashes involving rigid trucks.

The number of fatal crashes involving rigid trucks:

- decrease by 13.5 per cent compared to the year ended December 2008, when 95 people were killed in 89 crashes; and
- increased by an average of 3.1 per cent per year over the three years ended December 2009.

Of the 81 people killed in rigid truck crashes:

- 46 were vehicle drivers (57%);
- 12 were passengers (15%);
- 11 were pedestrians (14%);
- 9 were motorcyclists (11%);
- 3 were cyclists (4%).

The 81 deaths were caused by the following types of crashes:

- 11 were caused by crashes involving pedestrians (14%);
- 7 were caused by other single vehicle crashes (9%);
- 63 were caused by multiple vehicle crashes (78%).

DEATHS IN TRUCK CRASHES BASED ON VEHICLE OCCUPIED

The BITRE now classifies the people killed in heavy vehicle crashes on the basis of the vehicles they occupied. The BITRE examined 240 of the 245 deaths from heavy vehicle crashes in 2008, and concluded:

- 35 of the people killed were heavy vehicle occupants killed in single vehicle crashes (15%);
- 146 were light vehicle occupants killed in multiple vehicle crashes (61%);
- 24 were heavy vehicle occupants killed in multiple vehicle crashes (10%); and
- 35 were pedestrians (15%).

In total, the figures show heavy vehicle drivers or occupants accounted for 59 of the 240 deaths examined by the BITRE.²

Acknowledgements and Obtaining Additional Information

These figures are drawn from Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics, *Fatal Heavy Vehicle Crashes Australia, December 2009*. You can download the complete publication from <http://www.tiny.cc/hvcdec09>.

² It should be noted the BITRE did not include deaths from crashes at level crossings.