



Transport
for NSW

Breakdown Safety Strategy for Improved Road Safety in Breakdown Situations

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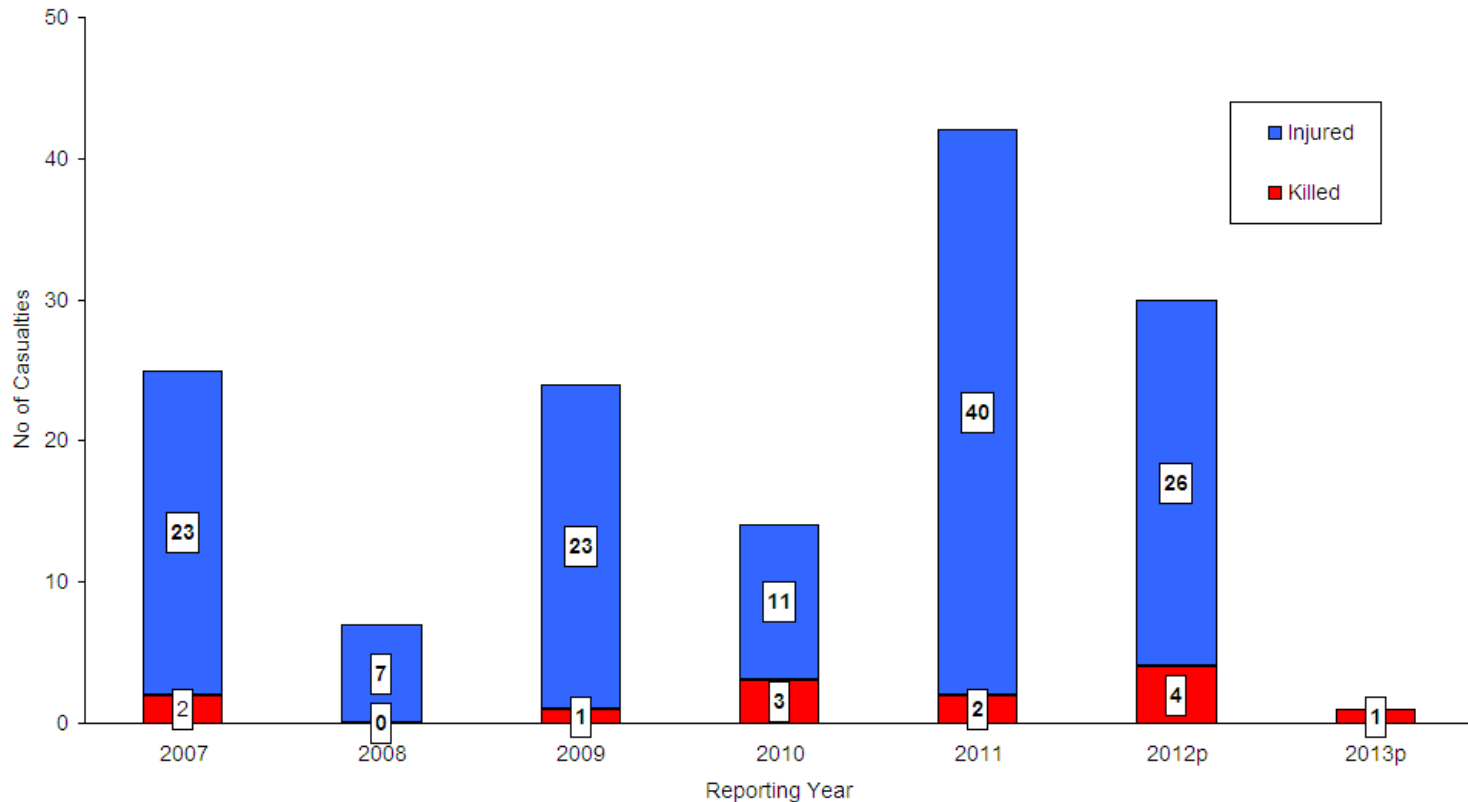
Background

- February 2012 - the tragic deaths of a young female motorist who had broken down and the tow truck driver who came to assist her.
- This unfortunate incident highlighted a gap and the need to improve breakdown safety for all road users.

Background

- Since 2007 there has been a total of 13 fatalities in breakdown lanes.

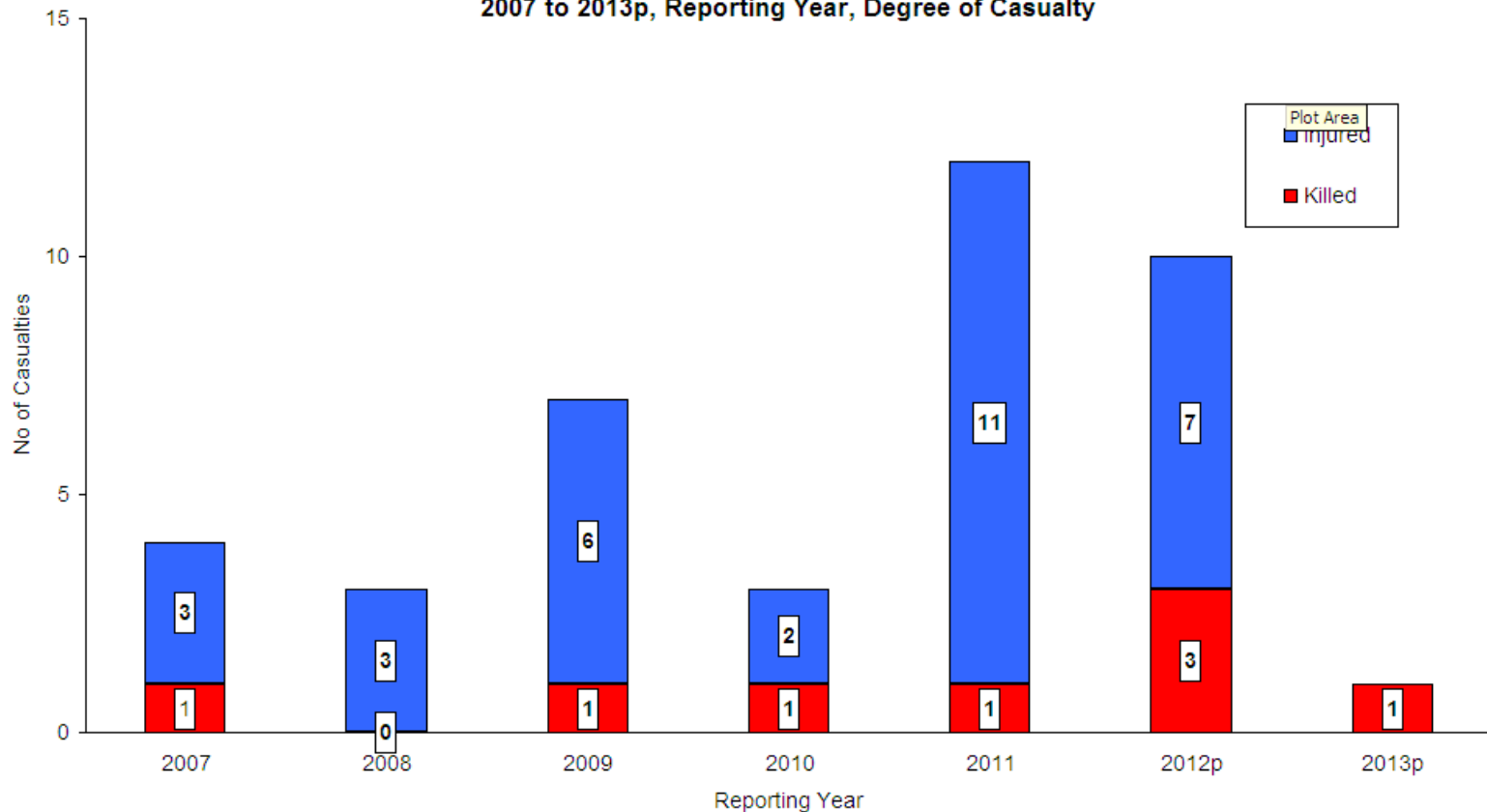
Casualties From Crashes at a Breakdown Lane / Road Shoulder (Permanent Feature) Involving a Parked or Stationary Vehicle or a Pedestrian Working On Vehicle, 2007 to 2013p, Reporting Year, Degree of Casualty



Background

- Heavy vehicles are over represented in breakdown lane crashes.

**Casualties From Heavy Truck Crashes
at a Breakdown Lane / Road Shoulder (Permanent Feature) Involving
a Parked or Stationary Vehicle or a Pedestrian Working On Vehicle,
2007 to 2013p, Reporting Year, Degree of Casualty**



Background

- February 2012

The NSW Minister for Roads and Ports requested Transport for NSW to thoroughly investigate how safety in breakdown situations could be increased.

Methodology

- The **safe systems approach** was adopted to develop the Breakdown Safety Strategy.
- This was achieved through consultation with key stakeholders.

Consultation

- A working group was formed comprising representatives from:
 - NRMA Motoring & Services
 - NSW Police Force
 - WorkCover NSW
 - NSW Centre for Road Safety, Transport for NSW
 - Customer Experience, Transport for NSW
 - Tow Truck Licensing & Compliance, Roads & Maritime Services
 - Motorway Management, Roads & Maritime Services
 - Traffic Management, Roads & Maritime Services

Audit of Breakdown Lanes

- A desktop audit of breakdown lanes and sealed shoulders on dual carriageways.
- The audit covered 2,079km, capturing data on the the major freight and intercity routes.

Audit of Breakdown Lanes

- An analysis of the shoulder widths identified:

Of the examined network

49.2%	has shoulder widths between 2.4m and ≤ 3.0 m
33.7%	has shoulder widths > 1.0 m and ≤ 2.4 m

- Roads and Maritime Services to develop an internet application.

Developing the Strategy

- April / May 2012: Workshop with key stakeholders.
- The following methods were identified:
 - Continuation of the RMS audit of shoulder widths
 - Significant communication of key messages to all road users
 - Improvements for vehicle standards
 - Procedures for roadside warnings
 - Possible law changes

Launching the Strategy

- June and August 2012: further workshops to develop the key actions and implementation plan.
- 13 September 2012: the *Breakdown Safety Strategy – A Way Forward* was released by the NSW Government in Parliament.
- The Strategy contains 22 actions with the purpose of increasing safety in breakdown situations.

The Strategy's Actions

Key actions include:

➤ *Communication*

The Strategy's Actions

Key actions include:

➤ *Shoulder Widths*

The Strategy's Actions

Further key actions include:

➤ ***Improvements to Vehicle Standards***

- Improve visibility of people and vehicles.
- Promote the use of safety devices and high visibility vests.
- Encourage vehicle manufacturers to retain warning triangles in imported vehicles.
- Improve tow truck industry standards: check installation of warning devices during safety inspection.

The Strategy's Actions

Further Improvements to Vehicle Standards

- Develop guidelines to ensure safety equipment is used properly by the tow truck industry.
- Communicate regularly with the industry in relation to safety at breakdown incidents.
- Advocate for the Australian Design Rules to include specifications for hoisting and winching mechanisms for tow trucks.
- Advocate Standards Australia to incorporate specifications for tow trucks, particularly the capacity to be controlled from the left hand side.

The Strategy's Actions

Further key actions include:

- *Procedures for Roadside Warnings*

The Strategy's Actions

Further key actions include:

➤ *Law Changes*

Implementation

- Implementation of the Strategy's actions are at varying stages.
- Some actions have been completed while some are in the process of implementation.
- The Communications Plan has been a linchpin in the Strategy; educating road users on how to remain safe in breakdown situations.

Communication

Breakdown safety

Glove box guide

Tips for staying safe in a breakdown

1. Find a safe spot to pull over such as an emergency breakdown area.
2. Park your vehicle as far to the left as possible.
3. Always activate your hazard lights.
4. Activate your parking lights in poor light.
5. Call roadside assistance on your mobile phone or use a roadside emergency phone.
6. When leaving your vehicle always check for traffic.
7. Leave your vehicle from the passenger side if possible.
8. Avoid crossing the road at all times.
9. Stand clear of the road. Move behind a safety barrier if safe.
10. Stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt on if it's not safe to leave.

Remember

- Check your fuel, oil, water and tyre pressures (including the spare) before a long journey.
- Carry a high-visibility vest, safety markers and a torch inside your vehicle.
- Breakdown lanes are only for breakdown situations.
- Use a rest area for making social phone calls, toilet stops or attending to children.

Special breakdown situations

Breakdown on a freeway or country road

- Always activate your hazard lights.
- Activate your parking lights in poor light.
- Call roadside assistance or use a roadside emergency phone.
- Move behind a safety barrier if safe to do so.
- Avoid crossing the road at all times.
- Do not change a tyre yourself, wait for roadside assistance.
- Stay calm, help may take longer to arrive on a country road.
- Let roadside assistance come to your vehicle and follow their instructions.

Breakdown in a tunnel

- Always activate your hazard and parking lights.
- Do not get out of your vehicle.
- Keep your seatbelt on.
- Stay calm, major tunnels are constantly monitored and operators will send help.
- Listen to your radio for instructions from the tunnel operator.

If you see a breakdown

- Slow down to about 30 km/h below the posted speed limit.
- Avoid crossing the road if you are helping someone.

Communication

The Glove Box Guide is available

- At all RMS registries throughout NSW
- Online through the Centre for Road Safety website
- Through distribution by NRMA roadside assistance, and
- Registration renewals

Communication



The Future

- Transport for NSW will continue to monitor the implementation of all 22 actions arising from the Breakdown Safety Strategy.
- Communications will remain a key component and Transport for NSW will continue to educate all road users on how to stay safe in a breakdown situation.



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Key Messages



Questions?

