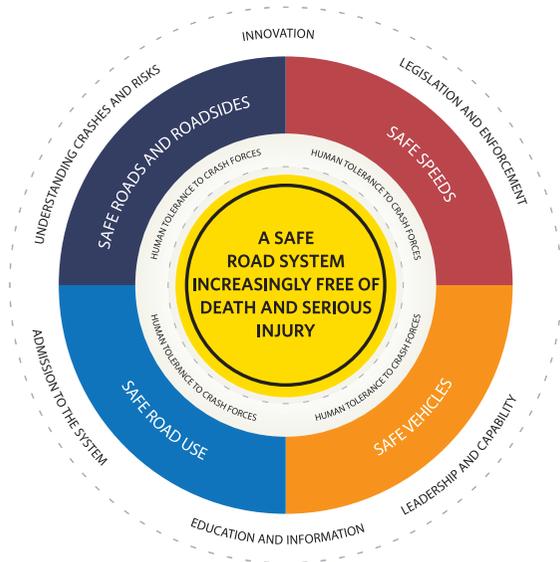


The 4 safe system principles



The Safe System approach is based on four simple principles:

- 1 People make mistakes. We need to recognise that some crashes are inevitable. What we shouldn't accept is the death or serious injury that results from those crashes.
- 2 People are vulnerable. Our bodies have a limited ability to withstand crash forces. We need to keep those crash forces to a survivable level.
- 3 We need to share responsibility. System designers and people who use the road must all share responsibility for creating a road system where crash forces do not result in death or serious injury.
- 4 We need to strengthen all parts of the system. We must improve the performance of all parts of the system - roads and roadsides, speeds, vehicles, and road use - so that if one part fails, the other parts will still protect the people involved.

Let's work together to make journeys on New Zealand roads safer for everyone. The safe system approach is the difference between life and death.

What you can do

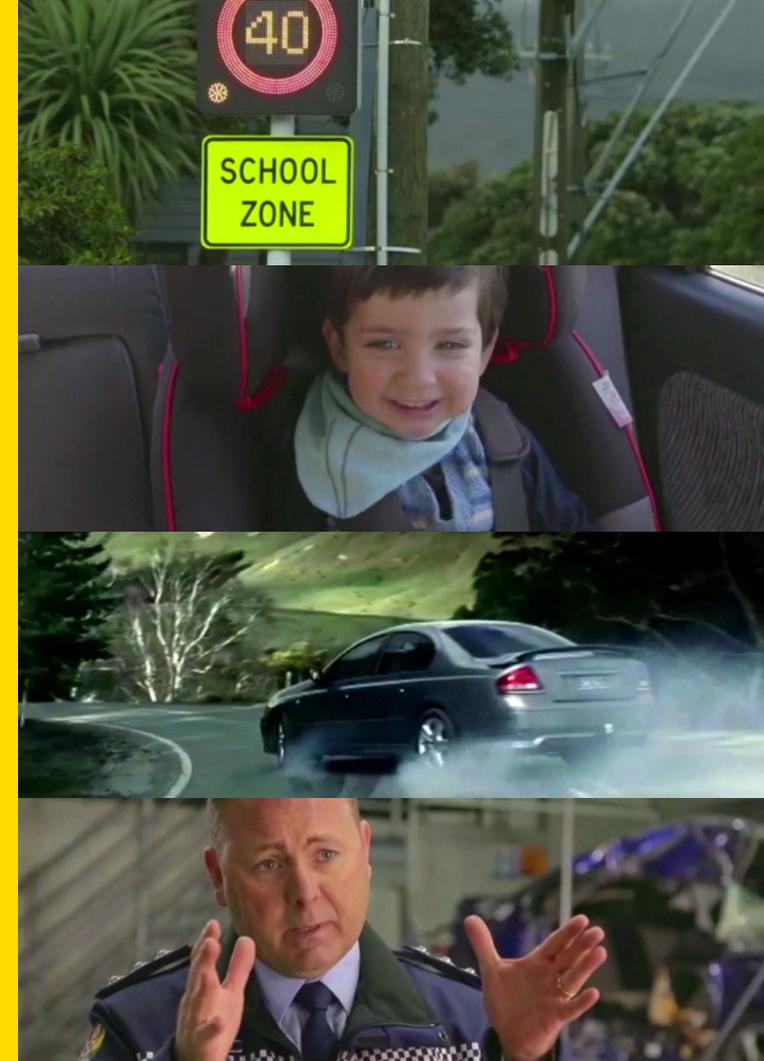
- Watch the DVD 'The difference between life and death' to find out more.
- Identify the ways you can influence others - use the DVD and fact sheet to support conversations.
- Bring your colleagues together to ask what you can do differently to prevent deaths and serious injuries on the road.
- Look beyond the driver - ask why the crash happened.
- Ask how roads and roadsides in your area can be made more forgiving.
- Take responsibility for your own driving as well as that of friends and family.
- Ask whether the speeds in your area are right for the roads.

To find out more and to download resources, visit:
saferjourneys.govt.nz/resources
nzta.govt.nz



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The difference between life and death

A SAFE ROAD SYSTEM



Everyone has a part to play to keep themselves and others safe on the road. A safe road system belongs to all of us.



Why we need a safe road system

We all make mistakes on the road – a moment of inattention, misjudging the speed of an oncoming vehicle or taking a corner too fast.

Research shows that, even if we all obeyed the road rules, more than 130 people would still die on New Zealand roads each year. We must do more to save these lives.

People are vulnerable and our bodies cannot withstand the forces of a crash. A safe system will not only reduce crashes but save us from death or serious injury.

In a safe system we identify and address the causes of death or serious injury – on the roads and roadsides, the vehicles we drive, the speeds we travel at and our driving skills and experience.

A serious crash can't just be blamed on the driver. It means the whole system has failed. Let's all do everything we can to make sure simple mistakes don't turn into tragedies.

What a safe system looks like

In a safe road system, everyone is working together at the same time to reduce the risks.

Every component of the system is safer:

- More vehicles have advanced safety features, including electronic stability control, crumple zones, front and side air bags. Tyres and brakes are better maintained.
- Roads and roadsides are more forgiving of mistakes. Surfaces are improved, shoulders are sealed, roadside hazards such as trees or poles removed and barriers or rumble strips installed.
- Speed is managed to survivable levels through speed limits that are appropriate for the road and greater use of technology.
- People using the roads are skilled, alert and drive or ride to the conditions.

As well as asking 'Why did the driver crash into that power pole?' we must also ask 'Why is that power pole there and how can this be made safer?'



Working together for a safe system

A safe system depends on everyone playing their part – politicians, planners, engineers, policy-makers, enforcement officers, insurers, vehicle importers, asset managers, fleet managers, utility companies, road contractors and maintenance crews, businesses, the media, schools, local communities, parents and everyone who uses the roads.

No one is off the hook.

A safe system means safer journeys

The safe system approach is part of *Safer Journeys: New Zealand's Road Safety Strategy 2010 – 2020*, which has a vision of a safe road system increasingly free of death and serious injury.

This vision challenges everyone to change the way we think about road safety and how we work together to make journeys on New Zealand roads safer for everyone. It recognises that serious road trauma is preventable and calls on all of us to take action.