

A few facts about rear-end collisions

Written by Australian Business

October 03, 2013 /**24-7PressRelease**/ -- Among the most disturbing thoughts when driving is the possibility of another vehicle unexpectedly hitting your car from behind. Feelings of vulnerability and lack of control often accompany such thoughts, as there is little you can do to prevent this type of car accident. Not only is a rear-end collision a frightful scenario, such collisions can cause many types of injuries. Drivers and passengers in this type of collision often suffer neck or back injuries, even if the damage to the vehicle is minimal. In some cases, [spinal cord injuries](#) or traumatic brain injury may also develop.

A profile of rear-end collisions

According to government statistics, [rear-end collisions](#) are the type of crashes that occur the most frequently. Such collisions are responsible for about 29 percent of all car accidents nationwide. However, how do these rear-end collisions occur? This question was answered in a study. For the study, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration commissioned the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) to conduct research and a series of tests about rear-end collisions. Although the VTTI's research encompassed many aspects of rear-end collisions, some of the important findings were:-The majority of rear-end collisions occur when the leading vehicle is stopped or moving at a very slow speed. About 81 percent of rear-end accidents occurred when the lead vehicle was completely stopped. In most collisions, the driver was following too closely to the car in front of it.

- Most rear-end collisions occur during daytime hours on dry, straight and level roads.
- In nearly half of rear-end collisions, the driver following the vehicle failed to react to the stopped/slowed vehicle due to being distracted or not paying attention.
- If the driver following the vehicle was eating, daydreaming, using a cellphone or conversing with a passenger, it was more likely to cause a rear-end collision. The study found that driver distraction was responsible for about 90 percent of rear-end collisions.
- Male drivers between the ages of 25 and 34 were 1.9 times more likely than other age groups to be involved in a rear-end collision.

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The study's findings highlight the need for drivers to leave more space between themselves and the car in front of it and to avoid engaging in distracting activities such as texting or using cellphones. Unfortunately, despite the danger, many drivers will continue give staying connected a higher priority than roadway safety.

If you or a loved one has been injured in a rear-end collision, driver negligence may be to blame. Insurance companies will likely offer you a quick settlement before you are aware of the extent of your injuries. An experienced personal injury attorney can ensure that you receive a fair settlement and that the responsible driver is held accountable for his or her carelessness.

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