

briefing notes - road safety issues

Mackenzie District

Land Transport New Zealand has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2003–2007 period.

The intent of the report is to highlight the key road safety issues and be a resource to help identify possible ways to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries in Mackenzie District.

This report is the ninth road safety report for Mackenzie District. All the material unless otherwise stated in this report applies to both local roads and to Transit New Zealand (Transit NZ) roads.

In each new report one year's data is added to a five year block and the oldest dropped so it is unlikely that the core issues would change radically from report to report.

The issues chosen for this report are drawn from either the most common crash types, those that appear over-represented when Mackenzie District is compared to similar local bodies or those with high social cost (high numbers of fatal and serious crashes mainly). We have included a brief overview of crashes in the district.

We encourage local bodies to use the free access to the Ministry of Transport's Crash Analysis System to delve deeper into the highlighted issues.

Major road safety issues

Mackenzie District

Loss of control

Overseas drivers

2007 road trauma

Casualties

Mackenzie District

Deaths 4

Serious casualties 8

Minor casualties 28

Nationally

Speed

Alcohol

Failure to give way

Restraints

Crashes

Mackenzie District

Fatal crashes 1

Serious injury crashes 5

Minor injury crashes 17

Non-injury crashes 41

Overview

In 2007 on local roads in Mackenzie District there were four injury crashes and 13 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 19 injury crashes and 28 non-injury crashes on Transit New Zealand (Transit NZ) roads, both as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the 23 injury crashes, by rural or urban areas for all roads, (rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

Casualties by environment 2007				
	Fatalities	Serious injuries	Minor injuries	Total
Rural	4	8	26	38
Urban	0	0	2	3
Total	4	8	28	40

The annual numbers of fatal and serious injury crashes in the district have fluctuated between one and 12 over the last ten years. There is no obvious long term trend. In 2006 and 2007 the number of minor and non-injury crashes was higher than previous years.

Crash trends				
Year	Fatal crashes	Serious injury crashes	Minor injury crashes	Non-injury crashes
1998	1	0	9	24
1999	2	2	12	34
2000	1	6	12	31
2001	0	4	10	31
2002	2	10	9	33
2003	3	4	13	32
2004	0	4	12	36
2005	2	7	11	38
2006	2	1	24	34
2007	1	5	17	41

Injury crashes 2003 - 2007

Crash type or contributory cause 2003 to 2007	Local Road Percent of injury crashes	Transit Road Percent of injury crashes
Alcohol	25%	4%
Too fast	14%	19%
Straight—lost control crash	46%	40%
Bend—lost control crash	46%	45%
Crossing / turning crash	0%	6%
Road factors	14%	14%
Vulnerable road users (Percent of casual-	6%	0%
1, Pedestrians	0%	0%
2, Cyclists	0%	0%
3, Motorcyclists	6%	8%

Further information about 2003 to 2007 injury and non-injury crashes on local roads:

- Worst month January
- Worst day Friday
- 7 percent on wet roads
- 37 percent at night
- 11 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$0.7m

Further information about 2003 to 2007 injury and non-injury crashes on Transit NZ roads

- Worst month March
- Worst day Thursday
- 24 percent on wet roads
- 27 percent at night
- 13 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$9.9m

Loss of Control

Between 2003 and 2007 79 percent of all crashes in Mackenzie District involved loss of control. These crashes resulted in 11 fatalities, 28 serious injuries and 118 minor injuries.

Non-injury crash numbers generally rose in the last five years.

Loss of Control Crashes 2003 to 2007

Crash year	Fatal crashes	Serious crashes	Minor crashes	Non-injury crashes
2003	3	4	12	19
2004	0	3	7	26
2005	2	6	10	26
2006	2	1	20	27
2007	1	5	16	37
Total	8	19	65	135

Most loss of control crashes occur when a driver loses control of their vehicle and either runs off the road or collides with another vehicle.

After drivers lose control their vehicles often crash into roadside hazards such as ditches, banks, poles or trees. Hitting these objects can result in a relatively minor off-road event turning into something far more serious.

The three most common roadside hazards struck in injury crashes in Mackenzie District were fences (14) over banks (11), and ditches (10) from a total

Main characteristics of injury loss of control crashes

Crash characteristic	Percentage of crashes
Bend	52
Straight road	48
Single vehicle	89
Alcohol	11
Excessive speed for the conditions	18
Road factors	16
Poor handling	50
Rural road	89
Wet road	17
Night time	36

Further information about injury loss of control crashes (2003 to 2007) on local roads in Mackenzie District :

- 2 deaths, 6 serious injuries and 39 minor injuries
- 83 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Crashes on bends and on straights were equally represented
- Most common age group 30-49 years
- 27 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 15 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month February
- Worst day of week Sunday
- Worst time period midday - 3 pm

Further information about injury loss of control crashes (2003 to 2007) on Transit NZ roads in Mackenzie District:

- 9 deaths, 22 serious injuries and 79 minor injuries
- 70 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Lost control on bends"
- Most common age group 15-24 years
- 5 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 20 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month July
- Worst day of week Thursday and Saturday
- Worst time period 3 pm - 6 pm

Overseas drivers

In Mackenzie District between 2003 and 2007 there were 29 injury crashes that involved overseas drivers. These crashes resulted in 5 fatalities, 8 serious injuries and 43 minor injuries.

These drivers can include both tourists and New Zealand residents driving on an overseas licence.

There were nearly twice as many crashes involving overseas drivers in 2006 as in other years between 2003 and 2007. This was primarily an increase in reported minor injury crashes.

Injuries in crashes involving overseas drivers

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Fatal	0	0	0	1	4
Serious	1	0	5	0	2
Minor	5	7	11	12	8
Total	6	7	16	13	14

In Mackenzie District 83 percent of crashes with overseas drivers were loss of control crashes. 54 percent these were on straight roads. The crash factors most often reported in these crashes were Poor handling, Poor observation, and Poor judgement.

Males drivers made up 74 percent of at fault drivers in these crashes.

The home locations of the drivers were

Europe	9
Asia	8
Australia	5
USA	2

Further information about the 29 injury crashes involving overseas drivers in Mackenzie District 2003 to 2007:

- 69 percent were single vehicle crashes
- 7 percent at intersections
- 21 percent at night
- 10 percent in the wet
- Worst month March, July
- Worst day of week Thursday
- Worst times midday - 3 pm

National issues

This section contains some brief information on the key national road safety issues as measured in Mackenzie District. They may have been covered elsewhere in this document or not be a specific issue.

Speed

In Mackenzie District, "Too fast" was recorded in 19 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in one death and 26 injuries. Speed as a factor in crashes is not reducing in the district.

92 percent of all speed-related crashes were Lost control. Poor handling and Poor judgement were the other driver factors most often associated with speed in injury crashes.

78 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. All ages of drivers were represented.

Alcohol

In Mackenzie District, alcohol was involved in nine fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in no deaths, and 13 other injuries. The number of injury crashes involving alcohol is not reducing.

64 percent of injury alcohol crashes were in rural areas of the district. 84 percent were Lost control. Speed was the other factor often associated with alcohol in injury crashes.

90 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males.

Failure to give way

In Mackenzie District, failure to give way or stop was reported in four fatal and injury crashes during the last five years resulting in no deaths and four other injuries.

Poor observation was the driver factor most often associated with failure to give way.

60 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between the ages of 15 to 29 years

Restraints

The Ministry of Transport conducts surveys of restraint use. The results of these surveys are at a regional level, and may not be fully appropriate to a Territorial Authority. The results are obtainable from the Ministry of Transport website.

<http://www.transport.govt.nz/belts-index/>

Contact details

Land Transport New Zealand
Geoff Holland
Manager Performance Information, Southern
PO Box 13364
Christchurch
Phone 03 964 2845

Road Safety Coordinator:
Daniel Naude
PO Box 522
Timaru
Phone 03 687 7200

Mackenzie District Council:
Asset Manager
Bernie Haar
PO Box 52
Fairlie
03 685 8514

New Zealand Police:
Derek Erasmus
Road Policing Manager
PO Box 2109
Christchurch
Phone 03 363 7417