

HEAD ON COLLISION AVOIDANCE RULE

247. There are simple rules which can help avoid us the deadly head-on accident.

RULE 1 – READ THE ROAD AHEAD

Scan the road ahead.

Use the 12-second rule to identify movement and positions of oncoming traffic.

RULE 2 – REACT BY MOVING LEFT

When an oncoming vehicle is sighted moving towards the centre line, move to the left.

Do not crowd the centre line. Give the oncoming vehicle plenty of room. If you are travelling well to the left, you have already made some space available for the oncoming vehicles should they need it.

RULE 3 - REDUCE SPEED

When you see a threat developing, reduce your speed immediately. Example of such threats include drifting of the oncoming vehicle across the centre line.

Slowing down gives the oncoming driver extra time and space to react. Continue slowing down and be prepared to stop until the situation clears.

RULE 4 - RIDE OFF THE ROAD

If you have followed the first 3 steps of:

- (i) Reading the road ahead,
- (ii) Reacting by moving left,
- (iii) Reducing speed,

and the oncoming vehicle still keeps drifting across the centre line, the final alternative might for you to ride off the road. This action may well be a life saver, if the other choice is a head-on crash.

Most people are unwilling to leave the road probably because it is an unknown area for them. They are afraid that they might turn over or lose control of their vehicles. In a moment of panic, they ride right into head-on collision.

ACCIDENT WITH VEHICLE AT INTERSECTION

248. This sort of accidents can happen at an Intersection, a Round-about, or where two roads merge or at car park exits.

These are mainly due to vehicles from the side:

- Falling to stop at Stop Sign, Give Way Sign, Red lights, etc.
- Failing to keep a proper lookout for traffic,
- Speeding (Speed too fast)
- Insisting on the right-of-way

Accidents occur as a result of difficulty in seeing each other because of:

- Obstructions e.g. parked vehicles. road side hedges, etc
- Glare e.g. rising/setting sun, glare from headlights of incoming vehicles.

UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS

249. An uncontrolled intersection is an intersection which has no traffic lights, Give-way signs, Stop signs or a policeman on duty.

At an uncontrolled intersection, observe the two give-way rules:

- (i) Give way to traffic approaching from the right; and
- (ii) Turning vehicles give way to straight going vehicles.