

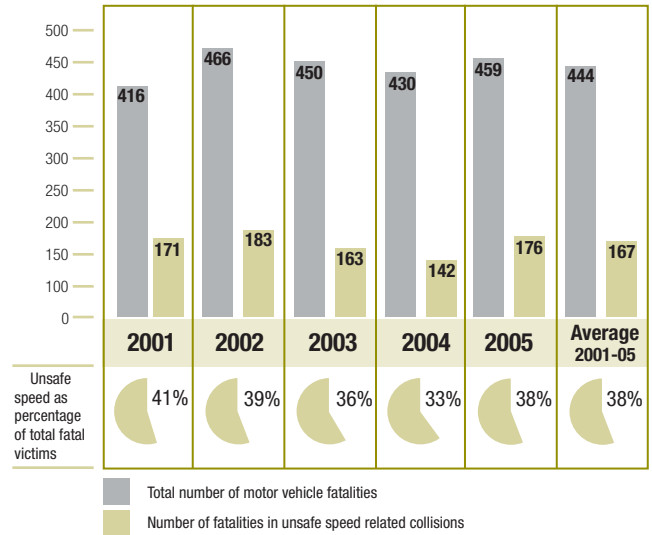
# Unsafe Speed

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update

## Trends

### 2005 unsafe speed-related collisions in B.C.

- Unsafe speed was a contributing factor in approximately 38 per cent of all police-reported motor vehicle fatal collisions.
- 176 people were killed in unsafe-speed-related collisions, up from 142 in 2004.
- Approximately 5,600 people were injured, down from 5,800 in 2004 from unsafe-speed-related incidents.
- 50 per cent of all fatality and injury victims in unsafe speed-related incidents occurred on a weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).
- The peak hours for unsafe speed-related fatal victim crash collisions in 2005 occurred between 9 pm and 3 am.



\*2005 fatality count is not fixed. Fatality data continues to settle over time.

## Unsafe speed

Unsafe speed — defined as driving too fast for road and traffic conditions — is one of the most frequently cited contributing factors in fatality and injury-producing crashes in police-reported incidents.

Combined with “aggressive” driving actions such as running red lights and stop signs and driving too



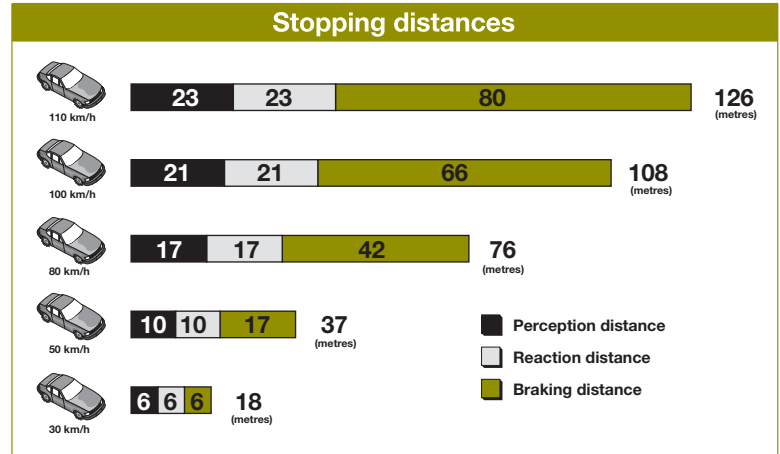
closely behind other cars, drivers who frequently exhibit these behaviours are putting other road users and themselves at risk. Slowing down and keeping your distance, being more realistic about travel times and showing more tolerance toward other drivers can reduce the risk of crashes on our roads.

**The faster you go, the longer it takes you to stop.**

Total stopping distance is the distance your vehicle will travel from the moment you notice a hazard until the moment your vehicle stops. You need time to see and react before your brakes even begin to slow your vehicle.

Total stopping distance is longer than most drivers realize. Under ideal conditions, it takes you about three-quarters of a second to see the hazard and make a decision (perception distance). Then it takes you about another three-quarters of a second to react — to get your foot off the accelerator and onto the brake (reaction distance). Actual braking distance — the time it takes your brakes to bring your vehicle to a stop — depends on a number of things: the road condition, the condition of your brakes and tires, the speed at which you are travelling.

When you are choosing a speed, keep this in mind — whenever you double your speed, your braking



distance is multiplied by four. In wet or icy road conditions, it is even more.

**Note: the stopping distances shown are under ideal driving conditions; wet or slippery conditions due to inclement weather will mean stopping distances will be longer, so please use caution at all times.**

**The faster you drive, the harder you hit.**

Force of impact, like braking distance, increases as you go faster. If you double your speed, you hit four times as hard.

**The faster you go, the more you pay**

B.C. has a system of escalating speeding fines — the faster you go, the more you pay.

Location	Km/h over the speed limit	Ticketed amount (includes 15 per cent Victim Surcharge Levy)
Highways and municipal speed zones	1 – 20	\$138
	21 – 40	\$196
	41 – 60	\$368
	61 +	\$483
School, playground and construction zones	1 – 20	\$196
	21 – 40	\$253
	41 – 60	\$368
	61 +	\$483
* Most fines may be reduced by \$25 if paid within 30 days		

**Safety tips:**

- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance. Allow at least two seconds of following distance in good weather and road conditions, and at least three seconds on high-speed roads.
  - Slow down on wet roads, in bad weather conditions, or on uneven roads. Increase your following distance to at least four seconds. Also increase your following distance when you are behind a large vehicle that could block your vision, or following a motorcycle that could stop very quickly.
  - If a collision seems unavoidable, steer to the right. Head towards the least harmful option, preferably an object that will give way on impact, such as a bush. The most harmful option is a head-on crash, where the force of impact is doubled.
  - Buckle up. This is the law for a good reason. Seatbelts will reduce your chances of being injured in a collision.
- Note: Make sure you know the current regulations on approved safety restraints for children.

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