

ROAD SAFETY

Road safety in South Africa ranks as one of the worst in the World and yet we seem to be unable to address this issue effectively.

The current statistics regarding fatalities on our roads for 2016 and 2017 are as follows:

- 2016 14071
- 2017 14050

The passenger capacity of a Boeing 737-800, which is commonly used in South Africa is 189 people. So, based on this number, the road fatalities equate to 1.5 Boeing 737-800's crashing every week killing all of the passengers. Imagine the outrage this would cause, surely something would be done about this immediately? so why do we continue to allow the carnage on our roads to continue?

The net effect of this is that, based on a factor of 16 people being directly or indirectly affected by the loss of a potential bread winner, a potential of 224 800 people are affected by these fatalities. This doesn't take into consideration people who are disabled as result of road accidents.

Fatalities in construction due to traffic accidents accounts for the highest number of deaths in the construction industry. Many of these injuries are because of transporting workers to and from work and in many instances, on the back of an open vehicle. These vehicles are often overloaded with people, machinery and equipment.

The highest contributor to road deaths is alcohol. According to the World Health organization, South Africa ranks as the worst country for drunk driving noting that 58% of all accidents are caused by drunk driving. This is something we have control over but yet we still allow our friends and family to drive a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, please don't do this, take the keys away in necessary, call a taxi but don't let someone drink and drive!

Lastly, here are a few tips to make you a better driver:

- Focus your attention
- Minimize your distractions
- Watch your speed
- Keep your distance
- Plan your route
- Maintain your vehicle
- Know your surroundings
- Share your space
- Signal your intention
- Always wear your seat belt

And finally, don't drink and drive