

UK SAFETY ALERT

UK SA13/2016 – 13.04.16



ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION WITH REFUSE LORRY

Details of Incident

A company Driver was driving a fully loaded articulated tipper to make a delivery. The road he was taking was a regular and familiar route, but the weather conditions involved patchy fog. As the Driver entered a patch of fog with low visibility, he collided with the rear of a stationary refuse truck that had pulled up at the side of the road.

Fortunately the Driver managed to take evasive action and avoided a collision with an operator at the back of the truck and an oncoming car.

Whilst the tipper was seriously damaged, our Driver escaped with only a scratch.

Key Findings

- The Driver was travelling too fast for the road and weather conditions and didn't leave himself enough time to react.
- The driver was wearing a seat belt which avoided injury.
- He was wearing spectacles and passed an eyesight test.
- He passed drugs and alcohol tests and was not distracted or on a mobile phone.
- Vehicle camera and recording system gave unique information about the incident. (Please see the recent Video Safety Alert VS04.2016 for film footage)
- The unsafe actions of people stopping their vehicles on the wrong side of road to offer assistance and visiting the scene could easily have led to further serious incidents.
- The incident could easily have had fatal consequences.

How Could this Incident Have Been Avoided?

- Stay alert for other road users and adjust speed to suit the road and weather conditions

Key Review Points

- Is effective Journey Planning carried out, which considers regular hazards that may be faced? Following the incident, the council refuse service have changed their procedures for this stretch of road and refuse trucks will now pull off the highway.
- Have drivers been trained in defensive driving techniques to ensure they drive to the road and weather conditions, leave enough space from the vehicle in front and ensure they are fit and alert?
- Do all drivers know the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency to keep themselves and others safe?



Watch your Speed
Keep below the limit and adjust your speed to suit road and weather conditions



Keep a Safe Distance
Leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front so you can stop safely.



Other Road Users
Stay alert to other road users, particularly motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians.



Journey Planning
Assess the risks and plan your journey to use the safest route.



Remember
– Your family depends on you.
So drive to arrive safely at all times!

