

Introduction

At National Highways safety is our first imperative. Our Commercial Vehicle Incident Prevention (CVIP) programme is responsible for identifying the key causes of incidents involving commercial vehicles and implementing interventions to help reduce the number of commercial vehicle related incidents that take place.

We continuously engage with, and seek support from, the commercial vehicle industry alongside collaborating with other organisations, such as the Police and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

Commercial Vehicle Incident Prevention programme objectives

The programme has two main areas.

Safe vehicles: which is focused on better designed and maintained vehicles; and

Safe people: which is focused on improving driver behaviour to reduce the risk of incidents occurring.

The CVIP programme supports National Highways' road safety ambition, based on the Safe System approach, with a greater focus on incident prevention through proactive safety interventions and improved partnership working.

A summary of our current safety interventions are below.

Safe Vehicles projects

We have:

- Loaned police forces in England and Wales the use of three unmarked HGV tractor units for **Operation Tramline**. The elevated position of the cabs allows police officers to drive alongside all types of vehicles to identify and take action against unsafe driving behaviour.
- Pioneered an unmanned drive through **mobile tyre safety station**. This automated tyre inspection and diagnostic service, scans and records tyre pressure, tread depth and axle weight, and captures images of loads for vehicles up to 7.5tonne.
- Worked with North West Motorway Police group and the DVSA on a **North-west commercial vehicle unit research pilot** to deliver a regional based approach to commercial vehicle compliance checks.
- Worked collaboratively with **DVSA** to reduce the number of dangerous and poorly maintained commercial vehicles on our roads.

Safe People projects

We have:

- Improved the current **knowledge levels and attitudes** of all drivers towards commercial vehicles through engagement, events, podcasts and campaigns.
- Collaborated with partners to **promote enhanced driver training** for drivers of goods vehicles.
- Promoted greater use of **in-vehicle systems/solutions** to improve driver behaviour through educational videos such as the advanced emergency braking systems guides.
- Worked with subject matter experts to better understand how **fatigue** impacts commercial vehicle drivers.
- Raised awareness of our **Calm Driver** well being resources by working with CALM charity and Driving for Better Business.

Notes

- In addition to these interventions, further research is taking place into tyre management, vehicle weights, fires, incident types and incident locations (to enable us to target our initiatives where necessary).
- More information on all these interventions, can be found at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/road-safety/commercial-vehicles/>

- Promoted initiatives and developed guidance to reduce the frequency and severity of **diesel spillages** from commercial vehicles.
- Promoted the **Driving on England's motorways** campaign to reduce collisions involving overseas commercial vehicle drivers. This campaign includes blind spot awareness, smart motorways, speed limits, illegal parking etc.
- Facilitated **compliance events**, working with police and DVSA to identify key locations and dates for targeting events.
- Worked collaboratively with Driving for Better Business in the promotion of the **Van Driver Toolkit** consisting of best practice guides, toolbox talks and other resources including the creation of a Fleet Focus monthly update.

We will:

- Develop a **Car Driver Toolkit**, which will have similar content to the Van Driver Toolkit but will be aimed at company car users.
 - Identified the root causes of **frontal shunt** incidents on our network and implement countermeasures to reduce them.
 - Developed a **incident investigation toolkit** aimed at fleet managers and operators to improve incident and near miss reporting and investigation.
- We will:
- Continue to promote **blind spot** awareness through the virtual reality app, safety cards, animations, Fresnel lenses and campaigns such as the Know The Zones campaign.
 - Continue to develop a **post collision trauma response** training and awareness package to support those willing to intervene at a collision scene. This includes making a 999 call, protecting the scene/self and providing first aid, to fill the time gap between when a crash happens and when the emergency services arrive.

How the programme fits together

The CVIP programmes, safe vehicles and safe people, will continue through the second road investment period. Individual projects may conclude and others expand. There is considerable resonance between the two parts of the programme and it is anticipated that each will contribute added value to the other.

Commercial Vehicle Incident Prevention Programme

Safe vehicles

Encourage deployment of improved vehicle safety technologies for both advice and passive safety.

- Police use of HGV tractor units
- Drivers' hours
- Tyre, brake and axle incident detection - roadside detection
- Load security and straps
- DVSA joint working initiatives
- Prevention of diesel spillages
- North-west commercial vehicle unit research pilot
- Prevention of HGV fires
- Facilitating compliance events
- Van Driver Toolkit
- Car Driver Toolkit
- Driving on England's motorways
- Portable weigh pads

Communications enablers

- Understanding the Goods Vehicle Industry
- Multi stakeholder communication plan
- National Highways promotion within the Goods Vehicle sector

Research

- Tyre management/tyre debris
- Vehicle weights
- Vehicle fires
- Frontal shunts
- Fatigue
- Minibus

Safe people

Develop intelligence led innovation programmes to improve road user behaviour with measurable outcomes.

- Blind spots
- Road user knowledge and attitudes
- Driver training for all commercial vehicles
- In-vehicle systems/solutions
- CALM Driver
- Frontal shunts
- Monitoring goods vehicle driver behaviours
- Collision investigation toolkit
- Op Ping
- Post collision trauma response

Key: ■ Complete and nationally implemented ■ Ongoing / In development ■ Not started



More information

If you would like more information or have ideas for how to improve commercial vehicle safety on the strategic road network please contact National Highways' Commercial Vehicle Incident Prevention team (Road Safety Division) by emailing: IncidentPrevention@nationalhighways.co.uk