

The Safe System Approach

Zero is our goal. A Safe System is how we get there.

The Safe System Approach aims to eliminate fatal and serious injuries for all road users by:



ACCOMMODATING HUMAN MISTAKES



KEEPING IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN BODY AT TOLERABLE LEVELS



6 Safe System Principles

Death/Serious Injury is Unacceptable

Prioritizes the elimination of these types of crashes

Humans Make Mistakes

Decisions that can lead or contribute to crashes is inevitable

Humans Are Vulnerable

Physical limits for tolerating crash forces before death or serious injury occurs

Responsibility is Shared

Everyone: all levels of government, industry, advocacy groups, researchers, public, law enforcement, educators, etc.

Safety is Proactive

Identify and mitigate risks

Redundancy is Crucial

If one part fails, the other parts still protect

6 Safe System Elements

Safer Road Users

Addresses every mode of transportation

Safer Vehicles

Utilizes safety measures that incorporates the latest technology

Safer Speeds

Higher speeds increase crash severity; reducing speeds can accommodate human injury tolerances

Safer Roads

Designing to accommodate human mistakes and injury tolerances can reduce the severity of a crash

Safer Land Use

Reducing distances between destinations minimizes crash potential by making walking, biking, and transit safer and a viable alternative to driving

Post-Crash Care

First responders, medical care, crash investigation, incident management, and justice

Traditional Approach vs. Safe System Approach

PREVENT CRASHES	→	PREVENT DEATH AND SERIOUS INJURIES
IMPROVE HUMAN BEHAVIOR	→	DESIGN FOR HUMAN MISTAKES/LIMITATIONS
CONTROL SPEEDING	→	REDUCE SYSTEM KINETIC ENERGY
INDIVIDUALS ARE RESPONSIBLE	→	SHARE RESPONSIBILITY
REACT BASED ON CRASH HISTORY	→	PROACTIVELY IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS RISKS



DELDOT
DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BE DELAWARE.
TOWARD ZERO DEATHS