



# Learning Event



## DRIVING

### HAZARD

Physical  
(Moving object - vehicle)

### Collision

### CONSEQUENCES

**Actual:** No harm to persons

**Potential:** This could have caused a fatality

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO AVOID INCIDENTS BY ANTICIPATING UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR FROM OTHER ROAD USERS?

### What Happened?

The driver of a light vehicle took evasive action (defensive braking) to avoid colliding with an unsecured item that fell off the back of an overtaking utility vehicle. The light vehicle was at the front of a line of vehicles that compressed due to the unexpected braking by the front vehicle. One of these was a heavy vehicle that swerved out sharply into the oncoming traffic lane to avoid a read-end collision, and then swerved back in again to avoid a head-on collision with a road train travelling in the opposite direction.

### Why did it Happen?

- The load on the back of the overtaking utility vehicle was not properly secured.
- The lead vehicle braked unexpectedly to avoid the sudden obstacle in their oncoming path.
- The line of traffic behind the front vehicle was following too closely, which reduced the amount of time and distance available for the drivers of these vehicles to react when the vehicle ahead braked unexpectedly.

### What did they Learn?

- **The driver of the leading light vehicle was travelling at a safe speed and did an excellent piece of defensive driving** – even the braking of the vehicle was within IVMS limits.
- **Defensive driving techniques are key to avoiding incidents arising from unexpected behaviour of other road users.** These techniques include following distances; scanning and anticipation; lane discipline; and escape routes.
- **All loads must be adequately secured.**
- **IVMS data and vehicle cameras are providing high-quality information that creates impactful learning.** Without the benefit of both front and rear cameras and speed and braking data, what really happened in this incident would simply be the recollections of each driver involved. The camera footage exonerated the light vehicle driver who had been formally complained about by the driver of the heavy vehicle.



### IOGP Life-Saving Rules

- ✓ Wear a seatbelt
- ✓ Do not exceed the speed limit and reduce my speed for road conditions
- ✓ Be fit, rested and fully alert while driving
- ✓ Follow journey management requirements



### Ask yourself or your Crew:

- Have you been involved in a road transport incident or near miss caused by unexpected behaviours of other road users? Did any of these situations cause a chain reaction involving multiple vehicles?
- Have you done a defensive driving training course? What techniques do you use to recognise/identify unexpected behaviours from other road users? How do you respond in these situations?
- When did you and your colleagues last have a toolbox conversation about the importance of:
  - vehicle headway / following distances (e.g. in ideal conditions a 2-second rule minimum for light vehicles / 4-second rule minimum for heavy vehicles, and longer in adverse weather or other challenging driving conditions)?
  - driver scanning and anticipation?
  - lane discipline and escape routes?

What commitment about your personal driving behaviour did you make as an outcome of this conversation? Is your driving behaviour always consistent with the commitment you made?

- Are the loads that you transport adequately secured? Does your load security conform with the Safer Together Packaging, Handling and Movement of Materials Specification?
- Do you have IVMS technology or cameras installed in the vehicles at your workplace? Have you and your colleagues discussed how this will help improve road safety? Have you discussed any concerns / apprehension that drivers may have, particularly dispelling myths about the technology and how it is used?

### Further information:



Safer Together:  
Land Transport Incident  
Review Panel Vodcast  
(Sep 2025): The Impact  
from Good Data & Video



National Transport  
Commission:  
Load Restraint Guide



Safer Together:  
Common IVMS  
Specification



Safer Together:  
Packaging, Handling &  
Movement of Materials  
Specification

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