



NCIS

Media Release

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Emergency Lane Collisions Claim Lives

Almost 30 people died in emergency lane collisions over the last 10 years according to data released by the National Coroners Information System (NCIS).

Almost 80% of the emergency lane deaths involved males and 70% were aged between 20-49 years. Heavy trucks are the most common counterpart vehicle.

Staying well clear of your vehicle following a breakdown, if safe to do so, appears to be the best option for motorists, according to Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith, Director of the NCIS.

"The most common scenario is people being killed while parked in the emergency lane or being too close to the car," Professor Ozanne-Smith said.

"People were found either inside their vehicles or just near-by," she said. "It's obviously much safer to wait for assistance as far away from traffic as possible, and if you must remain inside your stationary vehicle it's imperative you keep your seatbelt firmly fastened."

This advice is confirmed by public motoring authorities, which recommend that motorists leave a stationary vehicle through the passenger side door and wait for assistance as far away from traffic as possible. They also discourage motorists from working on their vehicle in the emergency lane (particularly on the traffic side).

These figures only included persons who were in an emergency lane with stationary vehicles, and did not include pedestrians walking in the emergency lane, or persons who collided with objects in emergency lanes.

The fact sheet with safety recommendations can be viewed from the NCIS website at www.ncis.org.au.

Media information:

Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith, Director, NCIS (Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine) 0426 260 702 or (03) 9684 4439.