

BULLETIN

Road accidents – 2010 Balance Sheet

In the beginning of 2011, as we analyse the road accidents occurred in 2010, unfortunately we do not see a promising picture. Increase in the number of road accidents is 12.3 per cent. Number of fatalities in these accidents is 42. Number of people injured is 1220 of which 161 is serious injuries. The only positive aspect with these figures is the small decrease in the number of sufferers compared to 2009: 4.5 per cent in the number of fatalities, 7.4 per cent in the number of seriously injured and 5.0 per cent in the injured people. The basic interpretation of these figures is that, we had more accidents resulting in economic loss in the past year.

On the basis of the settlements, Nicosia is the place with the highest number of road accidents. Kyrenia and Famagusta follow it with small differences. Nicosia and Kyrenia are also the places where most of the accidents with fatalities or serious injuries occurred.

Once we analyse the types of accidents, we see mostly side-hits with 27 per cent. The second is the rear side hits with 25 per cent. In 23 per cent of the accidents, driver lost control of the vehicle and ran off the road. Unfortunately in 70 accidents, what vehicles hit, was a pedestrian.

The reasons for these accidents takes us to human related factors again. Among the road accidents occurred in 2010, 27.8 per cent was due to excess speed, 20 per cent was due to failure to keep a safe distance with the vehicle in front, 12.7 per cent was due to failure to stop at intersection point, 9.7 per cent was due to distracted driving, 5.5 per cent was uncontrolled back – maneuver, 4.8 per cent was due to failure in maintaining left side of the road and 3.9 per cent was due to impaired driving by alcohol.

Road Infrastructure

Number of accidents, which were directly related to road infrastructure is 3. Among these, one is linked to water accumulation on road and 2, to potholes. This does not mean the road infrastructure we have is perfect. We work for improvement; however, the promising deduction is drivers were careful to eliminate accidents due to road infrastructure.

What is the solution?

The figures mentioned above answers this question clearly.

- If we had obeyed the speed limits, the number of accidents would have been 1239 less.
- If we had kept a safe distance with the vehicle in front, the number of accidents would have been 889 less.
- If we had taken a taxi at the end of a night with alcohol, the number of accidents would have been 171 less.
- If we had been more careful in driving and obeyed the traffic rules, most of these accidents would have not been happened.

Most of the beloved people died in these accidents would have been together with us, and some of us would not have been heavily injured. What everybody should be aware of is while we are driving, we are not playing a computer game. Everything is real and not reversible.

It is obvious that the culture of obeying the rules should be developed in our community. Traffic rules are to obey, not to violate and as we obey them we will be travelling safely. In the context of the Road Safety Education and Campaigning project funded by EU, we invite all of you to promise to obey the traffic rules. To have an accident rate even less than EU average in 2011, let's be more careful!

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- Workshop with Media

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