



POLICE NEWS RELEASE

ANNUAL ROAD TRAFFIC SITUATION 2013

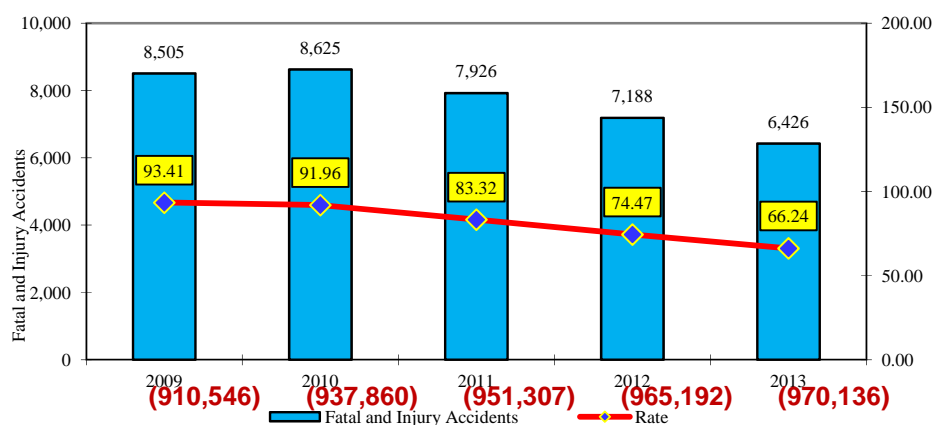
Traffic Police to sustain tough enforcement despite declining number of accidents

2013 saw a 10.6% decrease in the number of fatal and injury accidents from 7,188 cases in 2012 to 6,426 cases in 2013. Singapore's road fatality rate also fell to 2.94¹ in 2013. This continues a trend of decreasing fatal and injury accidents since 2010. Despite the declining number of accidents, traffic police will sustain tough enforcement, in particular against heavy vehicle drivers and recalcitrant traffic offenders, as one life lost to a traffic accident is still one too many.

Decline in Number of Accidents on Our Roads

2 The fatal and injury accident rate (normalised against 10,000 vehicle population²) dropped from 74.47 in 2012 to 66.24 in 2013. Please refer to Chart 1 for the fatal and injury accident rates for the past five years.

Chart 1: Fatal and Injury Accident Rate (2009 – 2013)



¹ The road fatality rate of 2.94 is derived from number of fatalities recorded in the year over the base of mid-year human population, per 100,000 human population

² The vehicle population in Singapore increased by 0.51% from 965,192 in 2012 to 970,136 in 2013. The vehicle population presented in Chart 1 is retrieved from the Land Transport Authority, as at June each year.

Drop in Vulnerable Road User Fatalities

3 The total number of fatalities decreased from 168 in 2012 to 159 last year. In particular, fatalities involving two vulnerable road user groups namely motorcyclists and their pillion riders, as well as elderly pedestrians, declined in 2013.

Motorcyclists & Pillion Riders

4 The number of fatalities involving motorcyclists and their pillion riders fell by 5.3% from 76 persons in 2012 to 72 persons in 2013. Overall, we have also seen a decrease of 14.7% in the total number of riders and pillion riders casualties, from 4,370 in 2012 to 3,726 in 2013. The number of motorcyclists and pillion riders who died or were injured in accidents along expressways has also decreased from 1,205 in 2012 to 1,031 in 2013 (-14.4%), although the proportion of motorcyclists and pillion riders casualties along expressways remain fairly constant at an average of 27.8% over the past 3 years.

Elderly Pedestrians

5 The number of fatalities involving elderly pedestrians³ fell by 26.1%, from 23 in 2012 to 17 in 2013. In terms of overall pedestrian fatalities, we saw a slight decrease from 44 pedestrian fatalities in 2012 to 43 in 2013.

Every Life Matters

6 While we are encouraged by the progress that has been made in the road traffic situation over the years, one life lost to a traffic accident is still one too many. Accidents are preventable and our road traffic situation can continue to improve. The rising number of accidents involving heavy vehicles, the rising number of traffic violations detected and the existence of recalcitrant traffic offenders are still real concerns.

Accidents Involving Heavy Vehicles

7 Due to the larger size of heavy vehicles and the propensity for such vehicles to cause greater harm in an accident, road accidents involving heavy vehicles continue to be a cause for concern. In 2013, the number of fatalities that resulted from accidents involving heavy vehicles increased by 37.5% from 32 in 2012 to 44 in 2013.

8 To address this issue, TP will continue its enforcement efforts against heavy vehicles. In 2013, TP mounted 33% more operations against errant heavy

³ Elderly refers to those aged 60 years old and above.

vehicles as compared to 2012. The recently introduced increased inspection regime for speeding heavy vehicles installed with speed limiters would also add more bite to our enforcement efforts.

9 TP will continue in our efforts against these heavy vehicles and review these efforts to ensure they remain relevant in today's environment.

Increase in Traffic Violations

10 The total number of traffic violations registered an increase of 10.6% from 332,206 in 2012 to 367,496 violations in 2013. Please refer to Table 1 below. Whilst this is also a reflection of TP's increased enforcement efforts, such a trend remains a concern as every traffic violation can potentially result in a fatal or injury accident and the loss of lives.

Table 1: Total Traffic Violations Detected

	2011	2012	2013
Traffic Violations	316,214	332,206	367,496

11 Among these traffic violations, speeding violations continued to make up the largest portion, with a total number of 260,512 speeding violations detected in 2013, compared with 245,427 detected in 2012. The next top two violations are red-running and careless driving respectively.

Recalcitrant Traffic Offenders

12 We are heartened by the conduct of the general road users, who remain responsible drivers and who are committed to following road rules and partnering the Traffic Police in enhancing road safety. However, there is still a small proportion of motorists, making up 0.7% of all licence holders in 2013, who were detected more than once for committing a serious moving offence.⁴ Over the past three years, the figures increased from 8,246 (0.5% of all) license holders in 2011 to 12,279 (0.7% of all) licence holders in 2013. There is also the trend of a yearly increase of 2,944 (from 2011 to 2012) and increase of 1,089 (from 2012 to 2013) of such offenders.

13 The number of suspended⁵ licence holders has been increasing for the past three years with the following figures of 1080 in 2011, 1,375 in 2012 and 1,992 in 2013. Close to 200 motorists were suspended more than once over the period of 2011 to 2013. Although these numbers are relatively low compared to the overall motoring population, the behaviour of such recalcitrant offenders on our roads remains a cause of concern

⁴ Serious moving offences comprise speeding, red-running, and dangerous/reckless driving.

⁵ Under the Driver Improvement Point System (DIPS), a motorist can have his licence suspended if he/she accumulates more than 24 points within a span of 24 months.

Continuing Our Efforts in 2014

14 Since 2013, a series of education, engagement, and enforcement initiatives have been developed and implemented under the Safer Roads Singapore action plan. Our goal is to create a culture where safe and courteous road use is habitual and instinctive.

15 Traffic Police will continue to step up our enforcement efforts in 2014 to deter and detect traffic offenders through increased Police presence and the use of technology. We have started the digitization of our red light cameras, which will enhance our capabilities to detect and enforce against red running offences. We have commenced the installation and testing of the first five cameras in November last year and will roll out over 200 cameras by early 2015. To deter unsafe driving within school zones, TP has also increased demerit points for identified traffic offences committed within school zones with effect from 1 January 2014. Very soon, the public can also expect to tap on our new public portal which will provide a dedicated channel for the reporting of both positive and bad road use behaviours.

16 Accidents can be prevented through continuous education and increasing the awareness of the importance of road safety among our road users. Traffic Police will continue to engage various groups of road users in our community through road safety talks and exhibitions to inculcate good road use behaviours. More education initiatives such as the Safe Driving Course to increase the driving competency of motorists will also be implemented in 2014.

17 Road safety is ultimately still a shared responsibility. Key stakeholders in our community, such as the heavy vehicle fleet owners and transport companies can expect to play a bigger role and contribute to road safety with several of our initiatives targeted at galvanising them to play their part.

18 The Safer Roads Industry Taskforce, which was set up in 2013, will serve as a platform for the government and industry to share and co-develop initiatives that promote safer driving for vocational drivers. Comprising representatives from various industry sectors, industry associations, unions, and the government, the Taskforce will look into areas such as continuous training and education, vehicle engineering and infrastructural solutions, as well as work health-related issues to help drivers drive in a safer manner.

CONCLUSION

19 Commander of Traffic Police, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Cheang Keng Keong said: “Even as the number of fatal and injury traffic accidents decline, there remains a small group of recalcitrant drivers who are a menace to other road users. We will continue to be tough with errant road users. We will be firmer with our appeals and errant motorists can expect to be suspended and lose their licenses altogether if they do not improve on their driving behavior. Over and above enforcement efforts, Traffic Police will continue to engage our stakeholders and educate motorists and vulnerable road users on road safety. Every life matters, we can all play a part to make our roads safer for everyone.”

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
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