

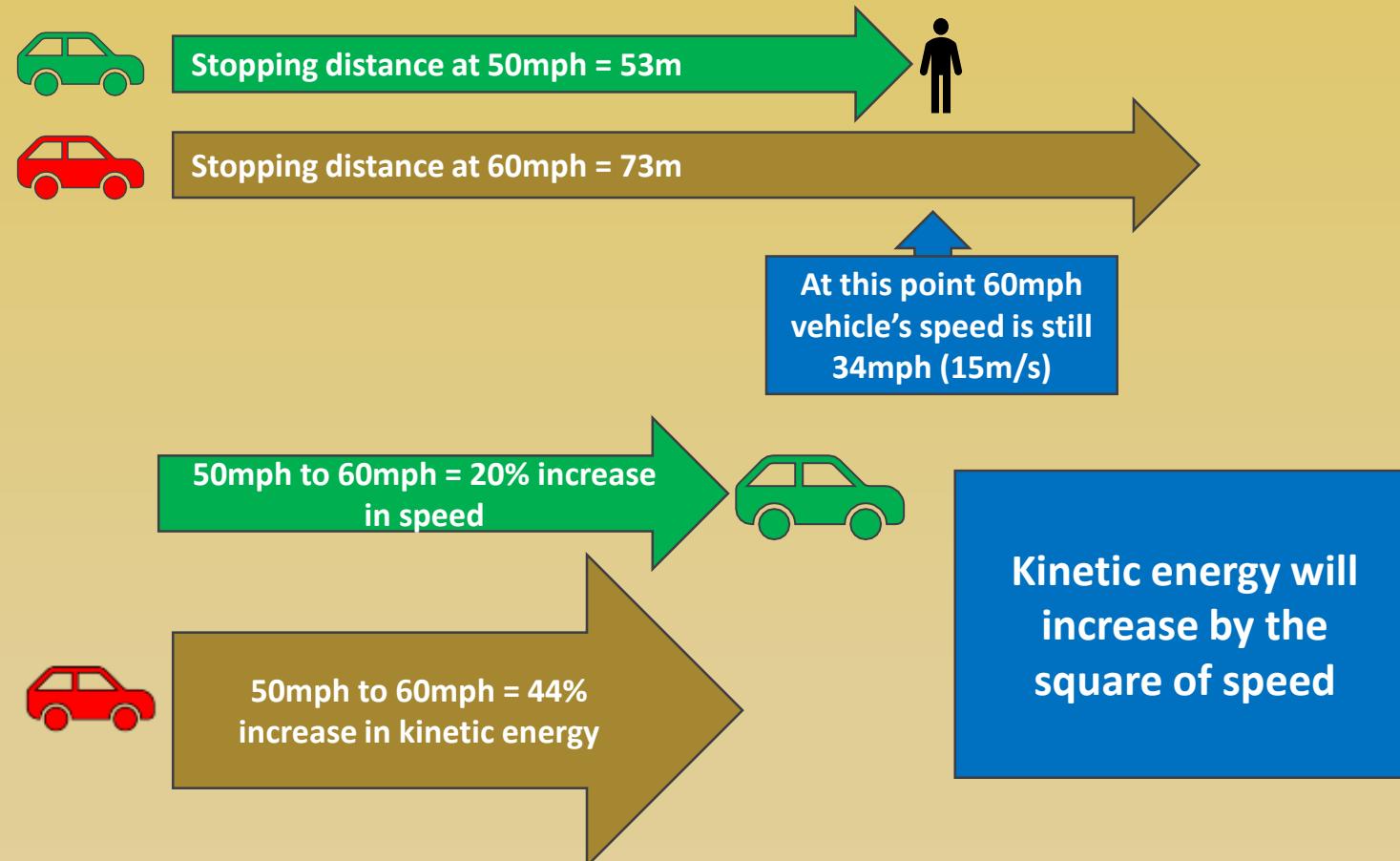


SWECO ✎

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Investigating Fatal Road Traffic Collisions
Tuesday 18th June 2019

Safety moment

Just a 10mph increase in speed



Quiz Time

Q; According to the DVLA, how many vehicles are registered in the UK?

A; 38,400,000 (31,500,00 are cars)

Q; According to DVLA, how many people currently hold UK driving licences?

A; 45,000,000

Q; How many vehicle miles were driven in the UK last year?

A; 327.1 billion

Q; According to the Association of Optometrists, how many GB driving licence holders drive with uncorrected defective eyesight?

A; In excess of 1,000,000

Q; According to Loughborough University, how many UK drivers may have diabetes- and don't know they have it?

A; Over 1,500,000

Q; How many unplanned full road closures are there believed to be per year in the UK on the strategic road network, caused by spontaneous incidents such as collisions?

A; Around 18,000

Q; At what overall cost to the national economy?

A; Circa £34 billion – incorporating all costs; human costs, output loss, disruption, medical costs, damage repair etc.

Q; On average, how many people get killed each day on UK roads according to Department for Transport figures?

A; 5

Q; What is the average financial cost of a fatal road traffic collision, according to Department for Transport?

A; £2,130, 922

Q; Since the development of the motor car in the UK, (let's say 1892) how many people have died on UK roads?

A; 500,000 (MIB)

When we put things like these together what could possibly go wrong?





Brecon Beacons A470

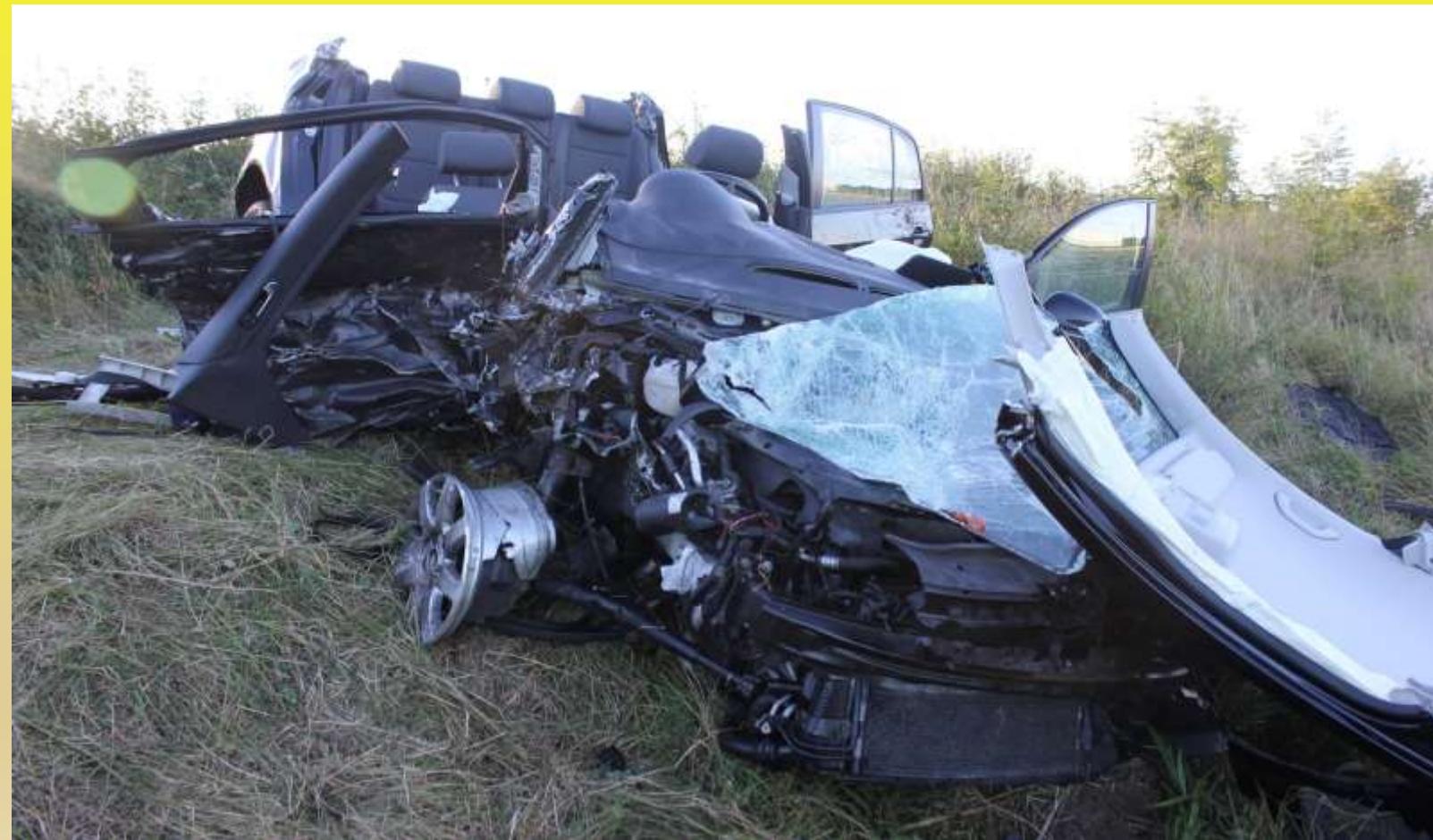
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How did this happen?



How does a vehicle end up like this?



When that call comes over the police radio, and the weather is like this



Police Emergency Fast Track Priorities

PRESERVE LIFE

ALWAYS PRIORITY NO.1

All scenes need to be understood and controlled...
rapidly



Police Emergency Response Priorities

Identify & Secure
Scene(s)

Identify Witnesses

Identify and Locate
Suspects

Secure
Evidence

WHO LEADS THE INVESTIGATION?



- Senior Investigating Officer (SIO)
 - SIO must begin investigation by adopting the mindset of unlawful killing, until the contrary is proved substantially
 - Overall responsibility for identifying, securing and recovering evidential material
 - Responsible for identifying and following strategic lines of investigation
 - Debriefs of investigations to identify lessons learned, which contribute to preventive measures and referrals to partner agencies
-
- Remember the SIOs 'maxim':
 - **“Assume nothing, believe nobody, check everything”**

Identify the scene – where really does it start ?



What does the physical evidence tell us?



What does this debris field actually tell us?



Evidence can appear insignificant (1)



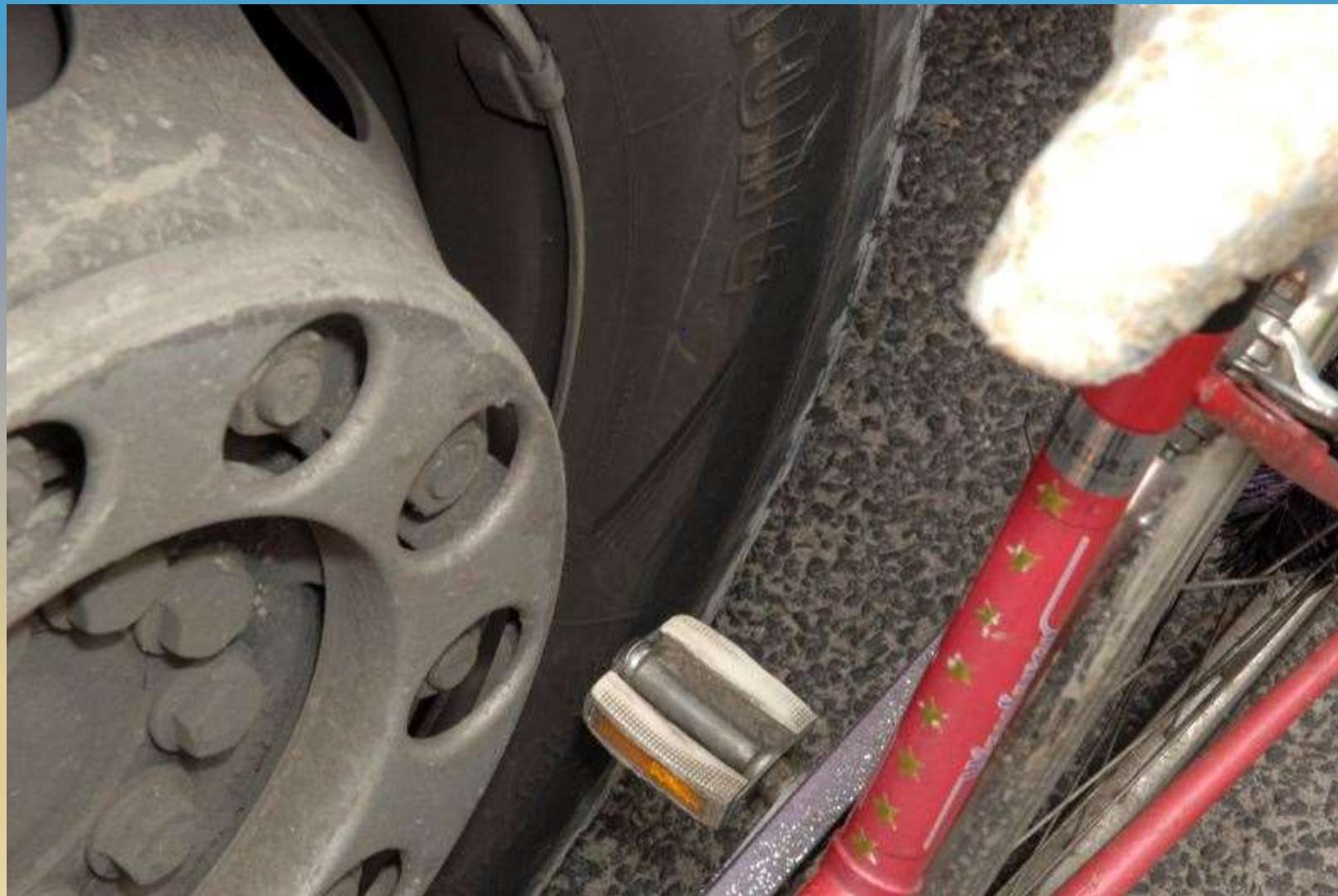
Evidence can appear insignificant (2)



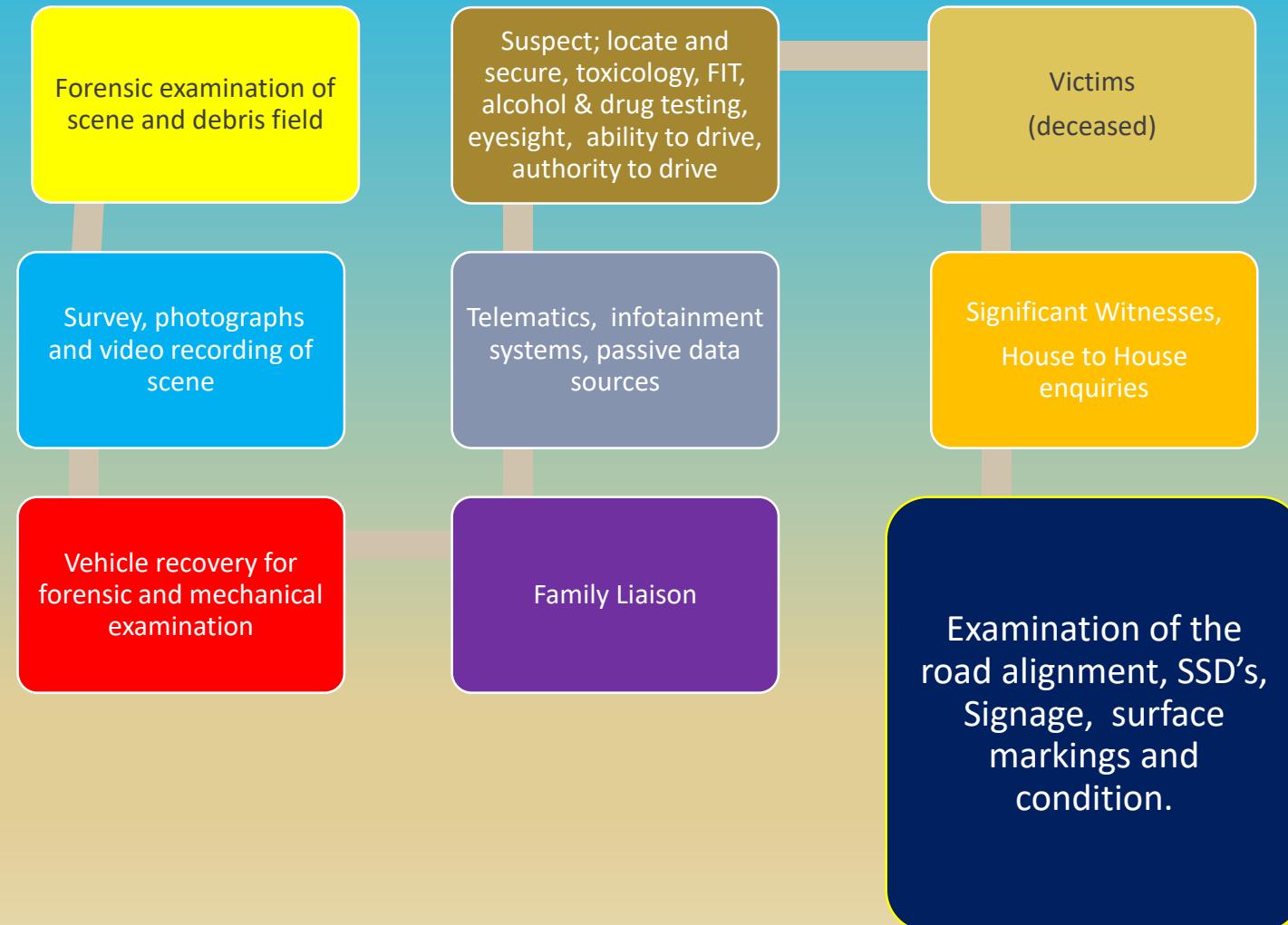
Evidence can appear insignificant (3)



Evidence can appear insignificant (4)



Examples of Strategic Lines of Collision Investigation



Traffic Management Officer (TMO)



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- TMO is responsible for examining both the collision history and the design history of the collision site. This will usually involve a post collision site visit with representatives from the traffic authority
 - Collision history will normally be STATS 19 data for 3 years, but may be a longer period if a significant design change took place during study period
 - Design history will look at any changes made to site and can include examination of:
 - Design proposal documents
 - GD04 safety assessments
 - Hazard logs and road safety audits
 - Responses received from stakeholders



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- Documents examined, seized and evidenced by police can include e-mails and other correspondence between individuals, design consultants and clients
- Police knowledge of design process and safety assessments can be limited – so every effort should be made to explain processes and decision making (e.g. terminology such as “risk tolerability” and “trade off” in GG104 safety assessments) to investigating officers
- Remember it is far better to have such discussions and information exchange with police during the investigation itself than in front of victims’ families in open court

Once the evidential material has been obtained, what happens next....

Simon Wickenden from WSP is going to tell you ..

Maximum penalties

- Causing Death by Dangerous Driving?
- **14 years imprisonment, mandatory disqualification, extended re-test**
- Causing Serious Injury by Dangerous Driving?
- **5 years imprisonment, mandatory disqualification**
- Causing death by Careless Driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs?
- **14 years imprisonment, mandatory disqualification**
- Death by Careless Driving?
- **5 years imprisonment**

