



Shakespeare Business Centre
245a Coldharbour Lane
London SW9 8RR

info@roadpeace.org
www.roadpeace.org
Tel: 020 7733 1603

Press release

Improving the Post Crash Response in London

19 September 2010

In the next week some 500 road collisions with casualties will be reported to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). These will include three to four deaths and 10-15 people will suffer life-changing injuries. Road crashes kill more people in London than homicide, but receive only a fraction of the publicity or resources and rarely make front page news.

What happens after a fatal or injury collision in London is the focus of a conference organised on Wednesday, September 22 by RoadPeace, the national charity for road crash victims. The MPS will present their current collision investigation protocols undertaken after a crash and explain how they vary with the severity and the circumstances of the crash.

The conference, held at the Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre, SE1 from 9.30am – 5.00pm, will be opened by a message of support from MPS Commissioner Stephenson and former Mayor Ken Livingstone, RoadPeace's first patron will be delivering the keynote speech.

The morning sessions focus on collision investigation, including the initial at-scene and follow-up activities. Sgt. Mark Stevens, Southwark Police, will discuss what happens at the site after a collision is reported to the police. Detective Chief Inspector Nick Chalmers, Head of the MPS Collision Investigation Unit, will summarise the investigation undertaken after a fatal or near fatal collision. The MPS Traffic Criminal Justice Unit will speak about the follow up investigation on all other injury collisions which, in London, account for the vast majority of injury collisions.

Opportunities for further improvement will be discussed with presentations on a new approach to witness statements that is being piloted by other police services in Britain. Witnesses are encouraged to record as much detail as possible and as soon as possible. Lessons from the Department for Transport's On the Spot research programme involving multi-disciplinary collision investigation teams will also be shared on the day.

A CPS prosecutor from the London Traffic Criminal Justice Unit will discuss their work after a culpable fatal or injury crash, while a new study being undertaken by Transport for London on the handling of cyclist fatal and serious injury collisions and the criminal justice system will also be presented. The civil side will also be reviewed with leading personal injury solicitors discussing their work in determining the evidence for a claim, and recent improvements in facilitating compensation for rehabilitation needs.

The conference will close with a presentation on the new London Trauma Network, by Tracy Parr of the London Trauma Office. Grievously injured crash victims are now taken to one of the four designated trauma hospitals covering London, instead of the nearest hospital where the specialist services required may not be available.

For further information contact:

RoadPeace

020 7733 1603 during office hours

Amy Aeron-Thomas, Executive Director:

07905 847917 outside office hours

Notes for journalists:

1. In 2009, there were 184 road deaths, 3043 serious injuries, and 24,752 slight injuries in road crashes reported to the Met Police.
(<http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221549/227864/642978/rrcgbmain2009.pdf>). But DfT estimates the actual number of road casualties is three times that reported to the police (<http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221549/227755/rrcgb2008.pdf>).
2. The most recent estimate of the average police resources in investigation is £1920 for a fatal crash, £250 for a serious injury crash, and £60 for a slight injury collision (<http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/documents/expert/pdf/unit3.4.1.pdf>).