



Preventing Crashes: Driver Safety through Human Factors Science

Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences
invites you to a Congressional Briefing
Sponsored by
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
& American Psychological Association

**Tuesday, November 13, 2007
Noon - 2:00 pm
Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-340**

Highway crashes resulted in nearly 43,000 fatalities and more than 2.5 million injuries last year alone. In fact driving fatalities are the most common cause of death for individuals between the ages of 4 and 34. However, one of the most often cited statistics regarding transportation safety, is the finding that anywhere from 70 to 90% of all crashes could be prevented.

Human factors science has much to contribute to increasing driver safety through better vehicle design, signage, training, and overall integration of the driver into the vehicle/highway system. Improving our understanding of the factors that contribute to crashes holds the greatest potential for reducing injuries and fatalities on the highways.

Emerging technologies have the potential to save thousands of lives every year – but only if they are designed with consideration for human capabilities and limitations. As technological innovations create new opportunities for aiding drivers, research is needed to evaluate the impact of these technologies on drivers' behavior, especially as it relates to accident risk. Similarly, research to better understand the underlying causes of crashes would be instrumental in crafting educational initiatives, technological interventions, and other measures to influence driver behavior and reduce accident risk.

AGENDA

- 11:45am Registration; box lunches will be available
- 12:00pm Wendy Rogers, PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology - Moderator
- 12:05pm Paula Sind-Prunier, PhD, Accident Investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, will offer an overview on the positive influence of human factors science on understanding driver and highway safety and reducing highway crashes and fatalities.
- 12:15pm Thomas A. Dingus, PhD CHFP, Director of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and the Newport News Shipbuilding Professor of Engineering at Virginia Tech, will speak to the impact of driver performance and behavior on driving safety, especially driver drowsiness and inattention.
- 12:35pm John D. Lee, PhD, Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, University of Iowa and Director of Human Factors Research at the National Advanced Driving Simulator, will discuss driver distraction and ways to counter and reduce such distractions.
- 12:55pm Donald L. Fisher, PhD, Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and Director of the Human Performance Laboratory, College of Engineering at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, will provide information on the importance of driver training and newly-licensed drivers.
- 1:15pm Paula Sind-Prunier, PhD will provide concluding remarks.
- 1:25pm Question and Answer

Video of these presentations, along with PowerPoints and other information from this briefing, will be available online at www.fbpcs.org.

Contact the Federation at federation@fbpcs.org or 202.336.5920 for further information.