

Safety Ownership

It wasn't my fault!

After a crash it's normal to hear people say things like, "It wasn't my fault" or "There was nothing I could do".

There are a number of psychological reasons why we choose to explain bad events this way; mostly it helps us feel better. However, seeing other people and things as the cause of events has a down side.

People who see the weather, or bad roads as the cause of crashes tend to miss out on opportunities to protect themselves, because they don't see the part they play in the crash. You could say they don't own the problem.

Common thinking

Here is a short list of typical statements made by people who don't see the role they play in events.

- "The car in front stopped suddenly"
- "The car just pulled out of the intersection without giving way"
- "The road was wet and slippery"
- "The pedestrian stepped straight out in front of me"

Train yourself to think differently

Many crashes could be avoided if drivers learned to think differently about the role they play in crash events.

For some readers, this exercise will be difficult. Still, it's worth practising this exercise before a real crash happens.

- "I can avoid hitting the car in front if I leave enough space"
- "I can avoid crashing at intersections if I look for drivers who might be about to make a mistake"
- "I don't have to crash in the rain if I slow down"
- "I can avoid running into pedestrians if I ask myself, where could they be?"

If you think about it hard enough and honestly enough, you'll find that most crashes are avoidable. The real question is, are you prepared to own the problem?

It's a lot easier to practise thinking this way before a crash.

Fast
Street

