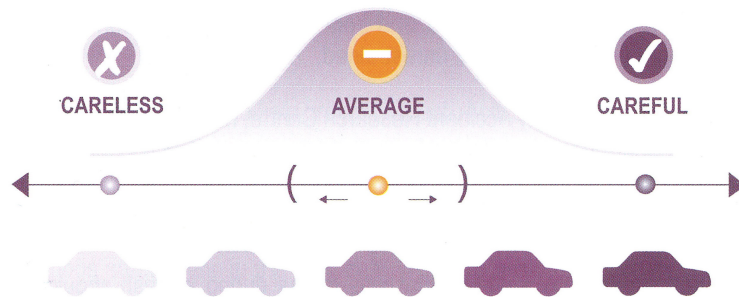


Safe Driving

What is safe driving?

Despite the fact that we often call one another 'safe drivers', driving can never be totally safe. In reality, most drivers are probably average. But what does average mean? If we look at the graph below, we can see that most drivers are probably at average risk of crashing.



Ordinary drivers are at average risk of crashing, because their behaviour is about the same as other drivers around them at any moment in time. It is normal to notice drivers who are more likely to crash because their behaviour is different. We might see risky behaviour like driving too close, or driving too fast. If it is possible to be more likely to crash, it is also possible to be less likely to crash. Drivers who are less likely to crash, actually drive differently to ordinary drivers.

I've been driving 30 years and never crashed!

Consider this: Is it possible that over a 30 year period, a driver may have driven too close, or too fast a number of times? The conclusion is yes, it is possible to drive in a risky fashion and not crash.

One of the biggest problems that ordinary drivers face is a phenomenon known as 'faulty feedback'. If drivers crashed every time they took a risk, the roads would be a very different place. Normally we don't crash, even when we behave in a risky fashion. As a result we learn that risk taking is okay for me.

A new way of thinking about safer driving

A driver who is not speeding, not drunk, not on the mobile and is wearing a seat-belt is not a safe driver! This driver is average because they are just behaving the way most average drivers are behaving.

The good news is that you can be a safer driver. You just need to put more effort into every aspect of your most cautious drive, more often than average drivers. To make a real difference, you'll need to do this every time you drive, for the rest of your driving life.



Fast
Street