Driver Training Australia

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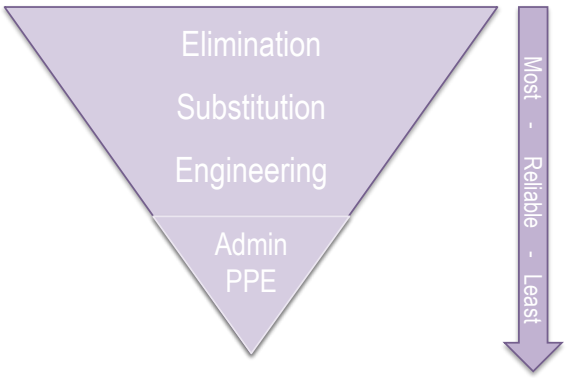
Risk Part Three
Controlling Risks

Hierarchy of Controls

The hierarchy of hazard control is a system used in industry to eliminate or minimise exposure to hazards. Here are some examples of how the system could be applied to driving. Can you think of some others?



- **Eliminate**: Don't drive or reduce the kilometres travelled per annum
- **Substitute**: Fly long distances or ship goods by rail
- **Engineering**: Fit cargo barriers to separate loads from occupants
- **Administration**: Create safe driver policies, procedures & training activities
- **PPE**: Seatbelts

Identifying Hazards

Hazards and risks can only be controlled effectively if systems exist to identify and control them before they convert to a near-miss or incident. You can use the same principle by changing the way you think about your driving. Try using a JSA or Journey Management Plan before you drive.

Observations

Most driving instructors offer advice like, "Look well ahead". This is too subjective to be useful. Seeing a hazard off in the distance is of no immediate help if you are travelling too fast to stop for something immediately about to enter your Crash Avoidance Space. Drivers need to know when their speed is in excess of their ability to glance, focus, perceive, decide and act.

5 Second Alarm

A useful strategy is to slow down when you first see objects less than 5 seconds away. Immediately lift your foot off the accelerator when the NEAREST object you can perceive is LESS than 5 seconds away, regardless of the speed limit. You can measure from any physical feature such as the NEAREST:

- Junction
- Pedestrian or Cyclist
- Parked Car
- Road Sign, Marker or Hazard

This is an objective tool you can use to measure your ability to control risks in simple or complex driving environments.