



NTSB

SAFETY ALERT

National Transportation Safety Board



Addressing Deadly Rear-End Crashes



Forward Collision Avoidance Systems Can Save Lives

The Problem

- Between 2012 and 2014, almost half of all two-vehicle crashes were rear-end crashes. These crashes killed more than 1,700 people each year.
- In that same time frame, the NTSB investigated nine rear-end crashes involving a passenger or a commercial vehicle striking the rear of another vehicle, which killed 28 and injured 90 people.
- A 2007 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study showed that 87 percent of rear-end crashes involved a driver failing to attend to the traffic ahead.

The Solution

- Considerable research on forward collision avoidance systems (CAS) in both passenger and commercial vehicles has shown that these systems can prevent or mitigate rear-end crashes.
 - Forward CAS typically consist of (1) *collision warning* that alerts a driver of the impending crash, and (2) *autonomous emergency braking* (also known as “crash imminent braking”) that automatically applies brakes.
- NHTSA is recommending the use of forward CAS.
- Broad deployment of forward CAS in all vehicles is necessary to reduce the severity of rear-end crashes.

What You Can Do

- When purchasing a vehicle, **consumers** should consider vehicles equipped with collision warning and autonomous emergency braking. To find out which vehicles offer these features, go to NHTSA’s [safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov) website.
- **Commercial vehicle fleet owners** should consider transitioning their fleets to vehicles equipped with collision warning and autonomous emergency braking.

For more information: See report NTSB/SIR-15/01, *The Use of Forward Collision Avoidance Systems to Prevent and Mitigate Rear-End Crashes*, on the NTSB website (www.nts.gov).

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