

Ralph's Accident Reconstruction Newsletter

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Stability-control systems and side-curtain airbags are also making news lately. Both components, which are totally unrelated to each other but which are available in many late-model vehicles, have statistically demonstrated their usefulness. In comparisons of vehicles which are available with and without stability-control systems, those which are equipped with such systems are demonstrating lower accident rates than their unequipped counterparts, by double-digit percentages typically near 20 percent. Considering the substantial body-shop expense which results from even a relatively minor collision involving no bodily injury, those systems have already demonstrated their usefulness and cost effectiveness. Their inclusion on certain late-model 15-passenger vans has demonstrated the safety advantages in that particular application.

Side-curtain airbags, including those which deploy from the driver or occupant's side and those which are deployed from above the driver or occupant, are also statistically demonstrating their ability to reduce or eliminate injuries in side crashes and/or rollovers. While accident avoidance is always the best policy, injury-reduction systems are almost universally helpful when a serious incident does occur.

Both the stability-control systems and more airbags in more locations could become standard equipment on more and more light trucks and cars. Although safety features now sell more cars than ever, it remains to be seen whether or not public demand for these important components will precede a government mandate for their inclusion.

As always, please call if you have any questions regarding issues within the domain of the services I offer. Thank you for reading my newsletter.

Ralph Cunningham, Inc.
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