

Tips on Building a Road Safety Resilience Plan



Resilience

Every road user must make important road safety decisions every time they are on or around our roads. To be prepared to make these split-second decisions that could save a life, you must have a plan. Some key areas you need to consider when making your own road safety resilience plan are:

1. You - Road safety starts with you:

- Always be fit to drive – think fatigue, drugs, alcohol.
- Eliminate distractions and stay focused on the road, whether as a pedestrian, bike/scooter/skate boarder or driver.
- Develop a plan prior to starting your journey - map your route and your breaks.
- See and be seen when using the road – think clothing visibility and protection, lights and reflectors.
- Attitude – think patience and courtesy.
- Scan the road ahead for potential hazards.
- Always keep a safe distance – think reaction time.

2. Preparedness - Things you can do ahead of time:

- Ensure your vehicle, motorcycle, bicycle, scooter is well maintained and in good working order.
- Include regular checks and services - good tyre tread, tyre pressure, oil & water levels and light function.
- Pack your vehicle correctly – is your luggage and passengers secure?
- Fit any baby capsules and child boosters correctly.
- Know how to change a tyre.
- If you intend to tow a trailer, caravan or boat, it's essential the driver is confident and well versed in ways of towing.
- Emergency plan – think emergency numbers, radio stations, local government websites.

3. Hazards - Be prepared for the unexpected and drive to suit conditions:

- Weather events – think severe storms, hail, fog, heavy rain.
- Changes in road conditions – think wet, gravel, ice and snow.
- Flood waters – think about what lies beneath the water that you can't see, if it's flooded forget it.
- Dust and unsealed roads – think variations and changes to road surface and how that may affect the grip of your tyres.
- Wildlife – always scan the road ahead.
- What to do in case of an emergency- think first aid kit, phone numbers, spare tyre and tools.

4. Action - Be the change you want to see on the road:

- Take personal responsibility
- Improve your in-car behaviour
- Model good practices
- Share your plan
- Take the Pledge www.arsf.com.au/take-the-pledge/