

For the next 7/10s of a second we will take you through

Death in slow motion!

It's night, you're tired, and you're late getting home, so you're driving 90 kilometres per hour on a road with a speed limit of 60 kmh. Your car reaches a curve in the road, but you make a mistake, too late, the car goes out of control and you hit a wall, **CRASH!!!**

1/10th of a second:

the front bumper and chrome grill collapse. Slivers of steel puncture the wall to a depth 4 centimetres.

2/10ths of a second:

the hood rises, crumples, smashes into the windscreen. Spinning rear wheels leave the ground. The front wings of the car come into contact with the wall forcing the rear parts out over the front doors. Your body continues to move forward at 90 kilometres per hour - twenty times the normal force of gravity. You now weigh more than 2000 kilos. Your legs, ramrod- straight, snap at the knee joints.

3/10ths of a second:

your body is now off the seat, body upright, broken knees pressed against the dashboard. The plastic and steel frame of the steering wheel begins to bend beneath your death grip. Your head is now near the sunvisor, your chest above the steering column.

4/10ths of a second:

the car's front 60 centimetres have been demolished, but the rear end is still travelling at about fifty five kilometres per hour. The half ton engine block crunches into the wall.

5/10ths of a second:

your fear-frozen hands send the steering column into an almost vertical position. The force of gravity impales you on the steering shaft, jagged steel rips your arteries. Blood spurts into your punctured lungs.

6/10ths of a second:

your feet are ripped from your tightly-laced trainers. The brake pedal shears off the floor. The chassis bends in the middle. The car begins its downfall, spinning wheels digging into the ground.

7/10ths of a second:

the entire body of the car is forced out of shape. Hinges tear, doors spring open. In one last convulsion, the seat rams forward, pinning you against the cruel steel of the steering shaft. Blood leaps from your mouth, shock has frozen your heart. **YOU ARE DEAD !!!!**

Total time elapsed: seven tenths of a second!

(adapted from www.huntersville.org/police/traffic-death.html)