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Emergency Workers Face Road Trauma

The latest group of NT Fire and Rescue recruits were put through intensive road accident training at the Darwin Fire Station this morning.

The Acting Chief Minister Delia Lawrie said the recruits were involved in worst case scenario training.

“Our firies are often the first at the scene of some of the most horrific accidents on our roads,” Ms Lawrie said.

“They are the ones who have to deal with smashed cars, horrendous injuries and deaths.

“It’s an unfortunate reality that they are continuously putting their road accident training into practice.”

In 2008, 19 of the 67 fatal crashes in the Northern Territory – or nearly 30 per cent - were speed related.

Ms Lawrie urged Territorians to slow down, not run red lights, wear seatbelts and not drink and drive.

“Although we have seen a 40% reduction in the number of accidents on our open highways since the 130km/h limit was introduced on January 1 last year, we can always do more,” she said.

“No family should have to go through the pain of losing a loved one or suffering the consequences of serious injuries caused by road trauma.

“While we correctly focus on the number of deaths on our roads – there is also a tremendous cost to families and the community of serious injury.

“These costs are enormous in terms of emotional, social and family pain – last year there were 633 serious injuries on Territory roads at an estimated cost to the community $205 million.”

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