

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of: *Human Factors in Traffic Safety*

REFERENCE: Dewar RE, Olson, PL. Human factors in traffic safety. Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company, Inc., Tucson, AZ 87551-0040, 719 pp.

This is a new book on human factors related to traffic safety and is divided into four major parts, with chapters as follows:

Part 1: The Driver consists of eight chapters: Perception and Information Processing; Driver Perception-Response Time; Where Do Drivers Look While Driving (and for How Long?); Individual Differences; Fatigue and Driving; Alcohol and Drugs; Age Differences-Drivers Old and Young; Neuropsychological, Medical and Psychiatric Disorders Affecting Motor Vehicle Operations.

Part 2: The Vehicle consists of two chapters: Vehicle Design; Visibility with Motor Vehicle Headlights.

Part 3: The Roadway Environment consists of four chapters: Roadway Design; Traffic Control Devices, Visibility under Roadway Lighting; Environmental Factors.

Part 4: Accident Causation and Remediation consists of seven chapters: Railroad Grade Crossing Accidents, Highway Work Zones, Pedestrians and Bicyclists, Left Turn and Gap Accep-

tance Crashes, Single-Vehicle Accidents; Why Witnesses to Accidents Make Mistakes-The Cognitive Psychology of Human Memory; Human Factors in Traffic Accident Litigation.

Drs. Dewar and Olson are the principal authors, who have authored and co-authored several chapters, while other chapters have been authored by individuals with expertise in their respective fields. All chapters were reviewed by Drs. Dewar and Olson along with a group of outside individuals. As can be determined from the listing of chapter headings, topical coverage of the book is vast. This obviously results in some areas receiving comparatively little coverage in a one volume book. However, the list of references at the end of each chapter is very useful for readers who desire to pursue specific areas in more depth. The book is generally well-written, with a uniformity of presentation, and contains information and data that are difficult or time-consuming to locate elsewhere. Although this reviewer would have preferred more analytical presentations in some of the chapters, the book is very worthwhile and valuable. Serious researchers and forensic engineers/scientists working in the field of automotive and traffic safety should consider adding this book to their libraries.

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