

More Dangerous Than Distracted Driving? Not Using Turn Signals

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Approximately two million car accidents a year are a direct result of drivers not using their turn signals, according to a study conducted by the Society of Automotive Engineering (SAE). This is more than twice the number of accidents caused by distracted driving, which accounts for approximately 950,000 crashes annually.

SAE researchers observed 12,000 lane-changing and turning vehicles and found that 25 percent of drivers failed to signal when making a turn and 48 percent failed to signal when they were changing lanes.

SAE proposed that auto manufacturers start offering a smart turn signal, a system that uses vehicle sensors and computer control to assist a driver in using turn signals. The system would use the same sensors already used in stability control systems, which are standard on all new cars, making the smart turn signal a no-cost option to manufacturers and consumers.

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