

ENSURING ROAD SAFETY DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

By: FIJI ROADS AUTHORITY

As the festive and holiday season approaches, bringing with it an atmosphere of joy and celebration, the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) is urging all road users—motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists alike—to stay vigilant and prioritize road safety. This time of year typically sees an increase in travel, both within and across regions, and it is crucial to recognize the efforts being made to improve road infrastructure while also adhering to safety regulations.

In recent months, the FRA has been working tirelessly to rehabilitate and upgrade the country's road infrastructure. Significant efforts are underway, including resealing, asphalt concrete pavement works, and other essential roadworks aimed at improving the safety and efficiency of Fiji's road network. However, with these upgrades come necessary road closures, diversions, and the presence of roadworks, which require a higher level of awareness from all road users.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Pedestrians also have a role to play in road safety, particularly in areas where roadworks are in progress. It is important to use designated crossings, obey traffic signals, and remain aware of vehicles and road conditions. With the festive season bringing increased foot traffic in some areas, both drivers and pedestrians must exercise caution and consideration for each other's safety.

PLAN YOUR TRAVEL AND STAY INFORMED

Meticulous planning is a cornerstone of safe travel. The Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) emphasizes the importance of checking for the latest road updates, diversions, and advisories before embarking on any journey. By proactively planning your route, you can avoid unexpected delays and disruptions, allowing for a smoother and safer travel experience. It is crucial to pay close attention to road-related advisories, such as weather warnings and traffic management plans. These advisories often provide vital information about potential hazards or road closures that could impact your travel plans. By staying informed and adapting your travel plans accordingly, you can significantly reduce the risk of accidents and ensure your safety on the road.



UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF ONGOING ROADWORKS

While the roadworks are vital for the long-term development of our transportation network, they may cause temporary inconveniences. For example, parts of the road may be narrowed, lanes may be redirected, or

speed limits may be reduced to ensure the safety of workers and motorists.

FRA emphasizes the importance of adhering to road signage that directs you around these areas. These signs are placed with your safety in mind, and ignoring them can result in serious

accidents, delays, and unnecessary risks to both roadworkers and the traveling public.

Moreover, traffic controllers are positioned at key intersections and roadwork zones to help manage traffic flow and minimize disruptions. It is important for all drivers to listen to their directions and follow their instructions promptly. Simple acts of patience, such as slowing down in construction zones, can prevent potential accidents and ensure that everyone remains safe.



THE DANGERS OF SPEEDING AND RECKLESS DRIVING

Speeding remains a persistent menace to road safety, especially during peak travel periods like the festive season. The allure of rapid travel can often cloud judgment, leading drivers to disregard speed limits and compromise road safety.

The Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) strongly urges all motorists to strictly adhere to the speed limits, particularly in areas undergoing roadworks.

It is crucial to remember that speed limits are not arbitrary regulations but are carefully calculated to ensure road safety. During the festive season, increased traffic congestion and potentially adverse weather conditions can significantly exacerbate road hazards.

To mitigate risks, it is imperative to adjust driving behavior accordingly. This includes reducing speed, maintaining a safe following distance, and ensuring that vehicles are in optimal working condition.

By prioritizing safety and responsible driving, we can ensure that the holiday season is a time of joy and celebration, free from the devastating consequences of road accidents. Let us all commit to being responsible road users, and together, we can create a safer travelling environment for all.



CONCLUSION: A COLLECTIVE EFFORT FOR ROAD SAFETY

The Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) remains steadfast in its commitment to rehabilitating and improving Fiji's road infrastructure. However, the success of these efforts hinges on the collective responsibility of all road users. As we embrace the festive season, let us remember that road safety is not merely a slogan but a shared responsibility.

By exercising patience, strictly adhering to road rules, and cultivating

heightened awareness, we can significantly contribute to safer roads for everyone. Let us prioritize safety over speed, and make conscious choices that prioritize the well-being of ourselves and others.

By working together, we can transform our roads into safer spaces, ensuring that this festive season is filled with joy and devoid of tragedy.