

Private Vehicles in the Interior

The issue of individuals using privately owned vehicles to commute to work (in the interior) has always been a concern to the company due to a spate of horrific Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) associated with unauthorised private journeys over the years.

Despite efforts to discourage the use of private vehicles in the interior through many campaigns, the practice still persists; an incident notification has just been circulated this morning (22/06/05) involving three seismic crew in a rollover as a result of an unauthorised private journey (background picture).

A recent snapshot survey of private vehicles in three interior regions (North, Central & South) revealed alarming numbers as depicted by (Fig. 1). This implies that at least 740 individuals are exposed on a regular basis (assuming there are at least 3 occupants per vehicle per journey)!

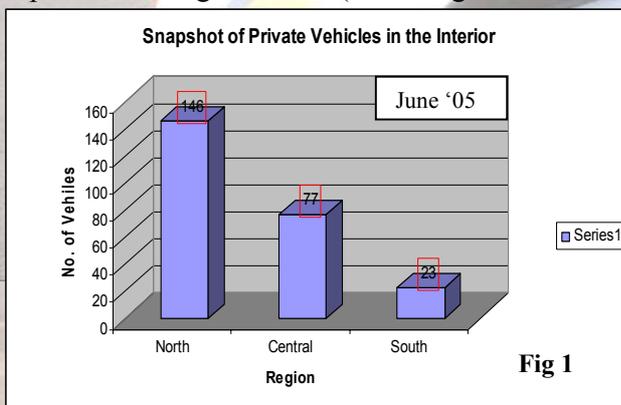


Fig 1

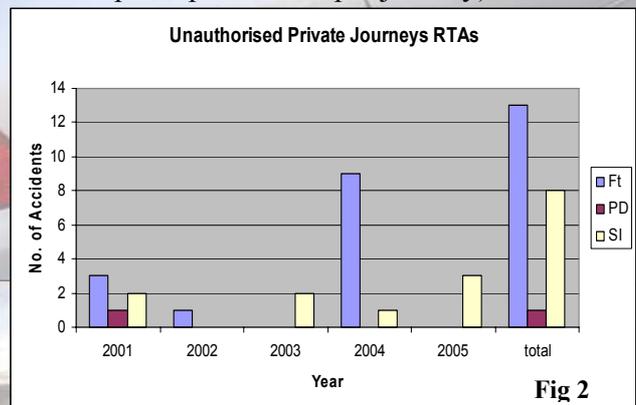


Fig 2

Records (Fig 2) indicate that since year 2001 there have been 13 Fatalities (Ft), 1 Permanent Disability (PD) and 8 Serious Injuries; notwithstanding the cost of such accidents in terms of human suffering, asset damage, disruption of the operations and the resources needed for the incident investigations at all levels of the company hierarchy. The picture is simply gruesome!

Can we as an organisation (PDO/Contractors) live with such a situation? The answer is quite obvious and needs no elaboration, but the question really is 'what are we doing about it'?

We can all begin by:

- Strongly discouraging the use of Private Vehicles to commute to interior work locations.
- Educating and convincing our staff to utilise PDO approved public transport (Heavy Buses). Approved public transport companies and corresponding buses are posted on the [Logistics website](#)
- Ensuring that our Contractors provide comfortable and SP2000 compliant busoperation for their staff.
- Synchronising the shift change with availability of public transport so as to minimise the waiting time for those proceeding on rest days.
- Discuss the issue during HSE meetings and just before the shift change.

