

8.45 Roadside Accident Marker Posts

Background

Motor vehicle accidents have always been a serious problem within the South-East of South Australia. Following a triple fatality on New Year's Eve, 1993, a public meeting was called. The Millicent Community Road Safety Committee (MCRSC) was formed January 13th 1994. With amalgamation of the Millicent, Beachport and Penola District Councils their committee also changed name to become the Wattle Range Road Safety Committee (WRRSC) on 1st July 1997.

The objectives of this committee being:

1. To reduce road accidents.
2. To increase road safety awareness.

The District Council of Grant is supportive of the Wattle Range Community Road Safety Committee in the introduction of the installation of Roadside Accident Marker Posts. These posts are standard guide posts painted black with reflective cross (to indicate a fatality) in place of the round reflector, or, painted red with round reflector (to indicate significant injury). The posts are erected on roadsides to mark those locations where a fatality has occurred as a result of a road accident. They are to be installed and are maintained by the District Council of Grant.

Injury posts are only erected in conjunction with fatal accidents. These posts are erected as awareness indicators and not as memorials to the victims of road accidents.

A road fatality is classified where, as a direct result of an incident, a death is recorded on the official South Australian road toll register. A significant injury is classified as any bodily injury necessitating treatment by a medical practitioner/hospital as a direct result of a road accident.

Accident Marker Posts – Type and Appearance

The marker posts conform with Transport SA's current performance Based Specification for Guide Posts, with exception to the post colour and the use of reflectors.

Fatality marker posts shall be black (Dulux gloss acrylic) and significant injury posts shall be red (Dulux gloss acrylic – Wildfire red – Code No. 603—39030).

Reflectors on the accident marker posts comply with Transport SA's requirements, ie: red to left and white to right hand side of roadway.

Installation Guidelines

Where marker posts are installed on rural arterial roads under the care and control of Transport SA, the marker posts should be positioned 300mm behind the line of the existing guide posts and adjacent to the incident site. Marker posts have only been installed outside town limits.

On roads that have guard railing or wire rope barriers abutting them, the marker posts should be positioned 300mm behind the rail or wire barrier.

One black marker post shall be installed for each death and one red marker post shall be installed for each significant injury associated with a fatality at any one location. No red posts have been erected for injury only accidents.

Important: Installation of Fatality and Significant injury marker posts should only proceed following the appropriate consultation with the victim's families (where possible).

Council will contact the families of the deceased or injured to seek their agreement to install accident markers for fatalities or injuries over the last 10 years. A three month bereavement period will also be adhered to for recent deaths.

Accident markers for the deceased or injured prior to the 10 year period, will only be considered on request by the families of the deceased or injured.

Installation and Maintenance

Installation and ongoing maintenance are the responsibility of the District Council of Grant. Installation of new posts only occur after approval from full Council and are included in Council maintenance programs.

When initially installed it was decided to commence from 10 years prior (statistics are available up to this time from Transport SA).

Removal of Markers

The Accident markers have a 15 year life, whereby families of the deceased or injured will be contacted and asked if they wish the markers to be removed.

A record is kept of location, date of accident and installation of marker posts.

Information Signs

Signage advising road users of the meaning of accident markers have been erected at five main roads entering the District Council of Grant, at Council's expense. These signs measuring 1.2 metres X 0.9 metres have a white background with black writing. They feature a black post with reflective cross and a red post with round reflective disc as per the following example.

Action	Date	Minute Reference
Adopted	06 September 1999	99262.3
Reviewed	15 December 2008	08290.4
