



It is important that closed road event organisers put measures in place that prevent fatal or serious accidents from happening, and key to that is preparation for an event.



The FIA has recently conducted a study into closed road accidents around the world and compiled a list of the most frequent causes of serious injuries and potential measures to avoid them. Please consult and share this list with organisers of events in your region:

1. Lateral impacts with trees and other solid objects are the most frequent cause of competitor fatalities, predominantly at the outside of fast corners.

- Careful stage design and selection should avoid high speed corners with close proximity to trees.
- Consider speed reduction measures before such hazardous corners such as temporary chicanes.

2. Spectators in unsafe locations or too close to the edge of the stage are the most commonly observed contributory factor in fatal accidents involving spectators.

- Event organisers should use every available means of enforcing spectator safety at rally events.

- A rally safety plan prepared before the event should indicate which areas are safe for spectators.
- Marshals must have the equipment and training to contact rally control immediately if spectators are observed outside of these safe areas.

3. Loss of control on the first run of the day, often on sealed surfaces, with cold car, brakes and driver are the most frequent factors leading to accidents resulting in serious injuries.

- Stage selection should ensure a lower average speed in the first few kilometres.
- Consider a warmup course/area or untimed first stage where space and event schedule allow.
- Drivers' briefings should encourage competitors to build up gradually during the first stage/run of event.

4. Unprotected hazards are frequently associated with accidents resulting in serious injuries.

- Identify all exposed hazards such as guard rail ends, bridges, walls, nearby buildings or trees close to the road and protect them with large straw bales or tyre stacks.
- Check that each section of guardrail is securely bolted to the next section where the two overlap.

5. Escape roads are a high-risk location for competition cars to collide with spectators, officials, and rescue vehicles.

- Make sure the escape roads are free from vehicles, officials or spectators.
- Position any concrete blocks used to protect officials well back from the stage.

Following these simple steps can help save lives. The 2021 edition of the FIA Rally Safety Guidelines is now [available on the FIA website](#) in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German and Italian.

FIA Safety Department