

## Fact Sheet for the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's *The Safety Impact of Vehicle-Related Road Debris* Report

- In North America, vehicle-related road debris (VRRD) is estimated to cause over 25,000 crashes per year resulting in approximately 80-90 fatalities.
- VRRD is material—vehicle parts or cargo—that has been unintentionally discharged from a vehicle onto the roadway.
- VRRD is a causal factor in less than one percent of all crashes, and, VRRD crashes are generally less severe than other crashes.
- Recommends transportation agencies consider low-cost education and enforcement approaches by:
  - Enacting stricter laws on load securement
  - Targeting specific groups for enforcement (e.g., waste haulers, landscapers)
  - Training enforcement officials in vehicle safety and load securement
  - Educating fleet maintenance personnel on preventing wheel separations
  - Training commercial vehicle drivers to periodically inspect their vehicles and cargo
  - Educating motorists on defensive driving, especially around trucks in the event of wheel and tire separations
  - Educating motorists on load securement and how to report unsafe vehicles, unsecured loads, and road debris
- Report produced by Gerry Forbes, of Intus Road Safety Engineering, Inc. in association with John Robinson of MRC-Delphi
- Objectives of study:
- Determine the magnitude of the VRRD safety problem (i.e., frequency and severity of VRRD crashes)
- Identify potential countermeasures to prevent VRRD, the incidence of crashes, and/or to reduce VRRD crash severity
- Study methods included:
- Extensive literature review
- Comprehensive analysis of existing crash data
- Two surveys of current state and provincial public agency practices for preventing and removing VRRD