

DID YOU KNOW???

EVIDENCE MOUNTS IN FAVOR OF FRONT CRASH PREVENTION

Autobrake, City Safety, EyeSight are just a couple of names for vehicles equipped with automatic braking systems intended to prevent or mitigate certain low speed crashes by warning drivers of impending crashes, automatically braking your vehicle, or both. Front crash prevention systems use various types of sensors, such as cameras, radar or laser, to detect when the vehicle is getting too close to one in front of it. Most systems issue a warning and precharge the brakes to maximize their effect if the driver responds by braking. Many systems automatically brake the vehicle if the driver doesn't respond. In some cases, automatic braking is activated without a warning. Even if it doesn't prevent the crash, it reduces the severity of it.

Although luxury vehicles are more likely to have optional front crash prevention systems, the technology is catching on with more mainstream nameplates. Forward collision warning is available on half of the 2015 models in the Highway Loss Data Institute's vehicle features database. Twenty-seven percent of 2015 models offer a front crash prevention system with autobrake, more than twice as many as in the 2012 model year.

In the August 26, 2015 issue of Status Report from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), insurance data for vehicles with front crash prevention continue to show significant reductions in damage to other vehicles and for injuries to people in other vehicles. The data also documents reductions in damages to vehicles equipped with this protection as well as injuries to occupants in them.

The IIHS also reports that cars and SUVs equipped with automatic braking systems intended to prevent or mitigate certain low-speed crashes were involved in 38 percent fewer rear-end injury crashes in Australia and Europe than comparable models without the technology.

If you're in the market for a new car or soon will be, be sure to look into the safety features offered. It's also a good idea to check on the safety rating by the IIHS of the vehicle you might be interested in. The data is significantly proving the value of these front crash prevention systems.

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