

# Traffic Note 33

**Date:** February 2002  
**From:** Safer Roads  
**Authorisation:** Peter Croft, Manager Safer Roads

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of pages:** 1

## 2001 Road Safety Survey reports – Information

The Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA) has carried out further surveys on how the road controlling authorities (RCAs) are applying safety standards. The surveys help fulfil the LTSA's statutory function to "monitor adherence to safety standards within the land transport system."

The surveys this year covered roadside hazards and road hierarchies. The results have been published in reports *RSS 15 Roadside Hazard Management* and *RSS 16 Road Hierarchies*.

- The roadside hazard management survey found RCAs were aware of roadside hazard management issues and complying reasonably with good practice on new and reconstructed roads. However, it also found a disappointingly low number of collisions sites with effectively treated roadside hazards. Based on crash surveys, a number of observations are made about relative risks and priorities for reducing these risks in relation to the two main causes of concern – trees and utility poles.
- The survey on road hierarchies showed the majority of RCAs had a formal hierarchy, most frequently documented in their district plan. They are often used for town planning, defining priorities or levels of service for maintenance, and setting road design or construction standards. The LTSA believes the information obtained in the survey should be used to derive a national road hierarchy and appropriate safety standards for each class of road in the hierarchy. This would enable roads to be systematically upgraded, and give road users a safe road environment consistent with the class of road.

Complementary copies of each report were sent to each local authority and Transit New Zealand. Copies are available through the LTSA's Regional Engineers in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch for \$10 each. All road safety survey reports can be downloaded at [http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/publications/road\\_safety\\_survey\\_series.html](http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/publications/road_safety_survey_series.html)

**Disclaimer:** The Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA) has endeavoured to ensure the material in this document is technically accurate and reflects legal requirements. However, the document does not override governing legislation. The LTSA does not accept liability for any consequences arising from the use of this document. If the user of this document is unsure whether the material is correct, they should make direct reference to the relevant legislation and contact the LTSA.