

Reenactment of an Accident

The challenge is to “mock up” the accident without causing another one. The following four examples illustrate creative and relatively inexpensive ways to recreate the accident scenario without endangering the participants or the general public.

An approaching driver collided into the rear of a tractor trailer that was stopped in an emergency situation on a rural roadway at night. To illustrate the visibility, a full scale model of the rear of the trailer was built complete with working lights and emergency flashers. This model was light enough that it could be moved quickly out of the roadway if “real traffic” approached the reconstructed scene.

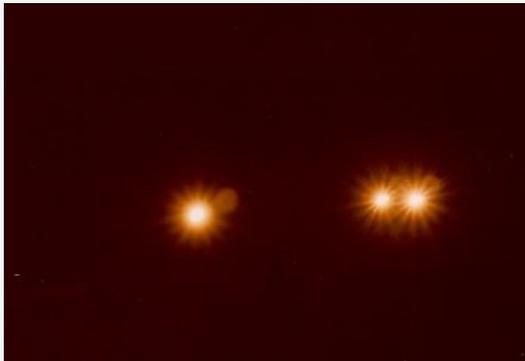
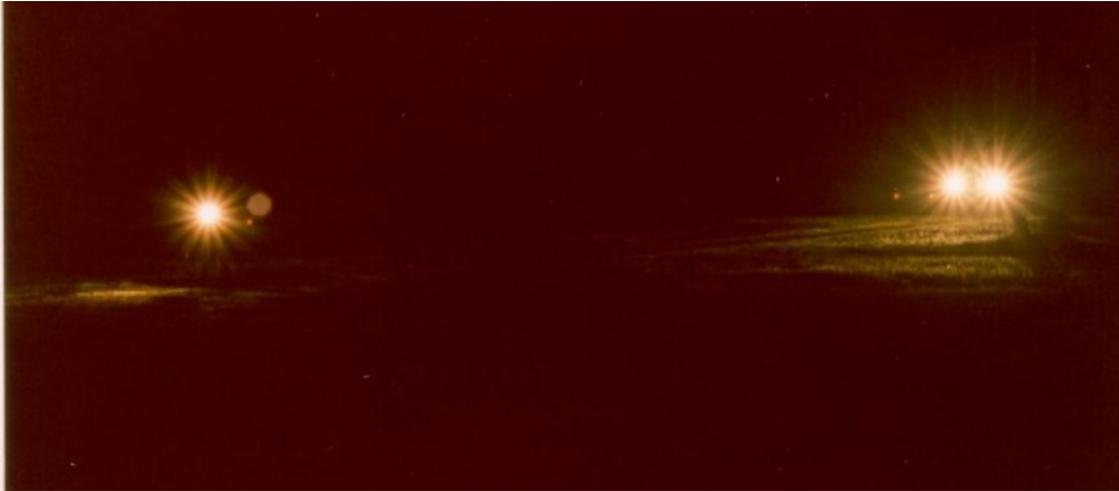


Portable Model of the Lighted Rear of a Trailer



A nighttime accident occurred when a pickup turned left in front of an approaching motorcycle. The accident was witnessed by a driver following the motorcycle. The roadway geometry would tend to line up the headlight of the motorcycle with that of the following vehicle. The geometry was “recreated” in a non traveled area using the headlights of a vehicle and a simulated motorcycle consisting of a headlight mounted at the correct height on a “saw horse”.

The following photographs illustrate that from a certain perspective the “motorcycle” headlight appears to be merged with the headlight of the following vehicle. The motorcycle may therefore not be readily identified by the turning driver.



All photographs show three headlights. In the photograph on the right, the motorcycle headlight has merged with the vehicle headlights and has effectively "disappeared".

An automobile exiting from a service station was struck in the driver side by a vehicle on the main roadway. Three portable signs had been set up on the grass strip between the sidewalk and the roadway. The signs provided a severe “sight line” obstruction for traffic exiting the driveway. Wooden 2x4 frames were constructed to duplicate the size and position of the signs. Photos were taken with approaching traffic in various positions. Using the printed photographs and “post it” notes cut to size, it was possible to illustrate the sight line obstruction without interfering with traffic or drivers exiting the facility.



2x4 Mock Up of Signs Interfering with the "Sight Line"

A pedestrian walking across a parking lot was struck by a pickup. The situation was reenacted by mounting a PVC pipe "stick figure" with a dummy head and clothing onto a furniture dolly. As the dolly was moved by a tow line, vehicle approaches could be made without endangering the participants.



PVC Pipe "Stick Figure" Mounted on a Furniture Dolly

Accident Reconstruction Tools

Estimating Accident Related Calculations; Checking Recalls & Service Bulletins; Capturing Accident Data; Truck ECM; CDR Online listing



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