

Here is another where the sign was struck at a 29° angle.



One item of interest might be that in accident No. 45, the vehicle struck the right support of a heavy roadside sign similar to this one, at 70 miles an hour, proceeded up an embankment, and diagonally across the frontage road, through a ditch, and through a fence, striking and shearing two braced corner posts 8 to 10 inches in diameter. The sign was hit at 8:45 p.m., repaired by noon.

We could go on and on through the 69 signs of various types along the road.

These have been hit from every conceivable angle practically and they have been caused by skidding on wet pavement, or skidding because of something on the pavement, such as a rock, or the driver going to sleep. In one case the driver was drunk. In another, the vehicle out of control. In another, skidding on dry pavement. Also, missing a sharp curve. Skidding while passing. And secondary collisions, or having been in collision with another vehicle first.

Mr. MAY. Dr. Keese, if a vehicle struck a breakaway sign at a 90° angle, it probably would not break away too easily; would it?

Dr. KEESE. The sign would not function as it was designed; that is correct.

Mr. MAY. But experience shows that a very remote possibility—

Dr. KEESE. Because of the weakness created by bolting this thing down, and we are now looking at the possibility of using the triangular or circular support similar to the one developed for the luminaires. We were of the opinion it was almost impossible for a vehicle to hit these things at right angle, going down the roadway longitudinally. We find this is not the case. In a skidding accident, they hit over against the median and come back across the roadway, and in some cases go off an embankment and hit a sign.