

The establishment of design standards for automobiles to minimize injury to the occupants in the event of a crash, is directed towards mitigating the effects of accidents. Search and rescue programs, and other programs to assist victims of accidents may be viewed as efforts to ameliorate the effects of accidents.

Reduction of the probability of loss of life, injury and property damage, can always be achieved, but the costs of such achievement cannot be ignored. These costs may take the form of increased expenditures, or of a reduction in some other desirable characteristic of transportation, such as speed. A judgment must be made by the Department as to the extent to which society's resources should be expended to reduce the loss of life and human injury in transportation. It must then be reflected appropriately in regulatory decisions and the allocation of resources.

## 2. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Most transportation that is offered by common carrier, including pipelines, falls within the regulatory purview of the Department with respect to safety. Much of the Department's significant activity in transportation safety is in the realm of influencing the framework in which private transportation and State and local authorities operate through education, regulation and approval of funds. Research and development is conducted by the DOT to specify requirements that are needed to maintain adequately high safety standards of design and construction in facilities and equipment, as well as the qualification and enforcement of operators.

The policy of the Department will be to provide leadership in developing guidelines so that State and local programs in safety education, regulation and enforcement will be as uniform and effective as possible throughout the country.