

## Young Drivers at Work Workshop

### Activity Five: The Causes of At-work Road Crashes

#### Crash Scenario 1: Delivery Driver

John, 23, works as a delivery driver for a medium-sized business making around 20 drops a day around Reading.\* Most of the drops are to customers in Reading but occasionally there are trips to nearby towns. He'd had the job for six months; before that he worked in a warehouse for a major retailer.

It's a Friday in mid-November during a gloomy overcast week. It had rained overnight but not during the day. It had been a long busy week for John, with a few late nights when he'd stayed up to watch television and a few early mornings when he'd got up early to go to the gym.

John had meant to get up early to go to the gym on Friday, but the week had caught up with him a bit so he took the extra hour in bed. He felt he needed the extra few minutes to make sure he didn't feel sleepy later that night when he was going to head out into town; it was gloomy outside anyway.

When John got into work he had another busy day with 15 drops, one out towards the other side of Basingstoke, which John decided he'd do last. He preferred it when all of the drops were in the same area because that made it easier to get home early. John was 'encouraged' by work to complete all of the drops in the same day anyway.

At about 3pm John arrived in Basingstoke to do his delivery, but as he didn't know the area it took a good half hour of driving round while using the map on his smartphone on the passenger seat. John didn't want to be involved in an accident (no one does!) so he always pulled over or waited until he stopped at a red light before looking at the map on his phone.

Getting back through Basingstoke John hit school traffic, which held him up another half hour before getting onto the clear A road back to Reading, but felt he could still get home at his normal time.

On the road there is an unsignposted bend to the right which John took too quickly. Steering sharply, he oversteered the van and the rear end slid out towards the side of the road. Panicking, John turned to correct the skid and over-corrected it, sliding into the other side of the road at the end of a long straight.

The van hit a small wall by the side of the carriageway, damaging the front of the vehicle. Although John was wearing his seat belt, the rotation of the van and the sudden stop meant that he hit his head on the interior of the vehicle and felt quite dizzy. His arm also hit the side of the steering wheel and ached.

#### Questions

What factors led John to fail to cope with the environment?

What could John have done differently which would have prevented the crash?

What difference would it have made if John had been driving at night and what could he have done to cope?

\* change the names to towns or cities if desired

