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## Volvo builds safe vehicles

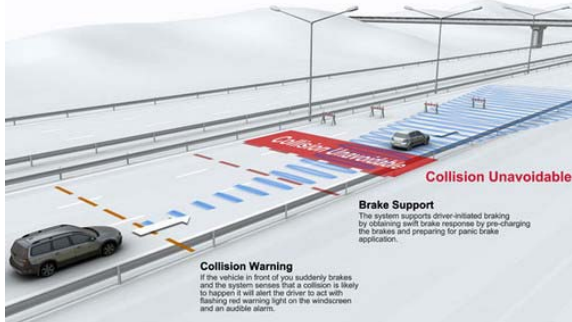
June 26th, 2012 - [Joe Duarte](#)

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Volvo's systems to help drivers avoid incidents and collisions deliver significant benefits.



### European field test confirms company assertions

An independent field test of Volvo's safety systems by a consortium of 28 organizations has confirmed what the manufacturer has said for many years – its cars reduce crashes and potentially save lives. The final report from the large-scale European Field Operational Test on Active Safety Systems (EuroFOT) research project that brought together 28 European companies and organizations (including Volvo Car Corporation and Volvo Trucks), confirms that Volvo's systems to help drivers avoid incidents and collisions deliver significant benefits.

The field test involved cars from Volvo and other manufacturers, with Volvo contributing 100 V70 and XC70 models. All cars were fitted with cameras and sensors to register every second of every journey of the 263 participant drivers over a time span of 18 months. The Volvos accumulated three million km of driving, returning 30 terra bytes of data.

Of the five technologies presented by Volvo – adaptive cruise control, collision warning, blind spot information, lane departure warning, driver alert control – EuroFOT found adaptive cruise control and forward collision warning cuts the risk of colliding with a vehicle in front on a highway by up to 42%. Drivers used the cruise control system more than 51% of the total distance covered with 94% of them reporting they feel safer with the system activated.

Drivers also reported feeling safer with collision warning (70% of participants), with one logging "a couple of times I managed to avoid being involved in an accident when the vehicles in front suddenly slammed on their brakes."

Data is not extensive enough in the areas of the driver alerts (blind spot, lane departure and driver drowsiness), but the information gathered noted that drivers do note and respond immediately to the alerts, "recovering the vehicle before the situation became serious," said John-Fredrik Gronvall, Manager Traffic Accident Research at Volvo Car Corporation.

"Both the comprehensive studies of driver behaviour and the wide range of comments from the drivers involved are very valuable in our research," says Peter Mertens, Volvo's Senior Vice President Research & Development. "The results from EuroFOT help us develop new, user-friendly and effective technologies that bring us closer to our goal of no injuries or fatalities in a new Volvo car in 2020."

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