

Fatalities are decreasing

LOWVELD FER - FRIDAY 25 JANUARY 2008
■ Sheldon Vos

NELSPRUIT - While minor accidents at traffic lights have increased, fewer serious accidents have been taking place in Nelspruit since load-shedding began in earnest.

According to Mr Luke Martin, head of emergency services, the slower pace of traffic has definitely led to a reduction in P1 (critically injured) and P2 (seriously injured) call-outs. He says most accidents are either classified as P3s (walking wounded) and Tango 13s (no service required).

"People need to follow the four-second code, which means give each car four seconds to get through the intersection. Treat it as a four-way stop. First come,

first served. If there is any doubt, the car to your right has right of way. Numerous accidents take place when two or three cars jump through in a row."

This was confirmed by Mr Nick Potgieter of ATS breakdown services. "It's mostly just bumper bashing at the moment, nothing serious. The scene in town has been very quiet as far as serious accidents go."

Bumper bashes at traffic lights have increased according to most sources.

Mr Nico Coenrad van Wyngaardt of Car Towing Services said this typically happens when drivers are caught by surprise when they reach backed-up traffic,

or fail to follow the four-way stop principal at defunct robots.

"We see between five and 10 of these minor accidents each day," said Mr Roy Mhluli of Matt's Towing. "The major cause is people becoming impatient and jumping their turn."

Mr Eddie Prolius, head of the Mbombela Traffic Department confirms that statistics show no decline or increase in accidents.

