

Impact of Rear Wheel of Trailer South of Amberlee Ontario on May 25, 2011

Posting Date: 27 May 2011

A curious impact occurred just south of the village of Amberlee, Ontario, just to north east of Stratford on Perth Road 107 on May 25th, 2011. A young man was northbound in his car to meet with his mother who was just a few kilometres away when, for some unexplained reason, his car cross the roadway centre-line and collided with the rear wheels of a truck trailer, persumably the standard tractor-trailer type although that has not been confirmed.

Below is a general view of the accident site, looking north, from about 200 metres south of the point of impact (POI).



My orange cones on the right side of the road are spaced 50 metres apart. The furthest cone is where the impact occurred. You can see my vehicle parked on the roadside at about 50 metres south of the POI.

The photo is looking north and shows the east asphalt edge of the road confirming that there is no edge drop off and there are no tire marks on the shoulder to indicate that the

vehicle initially left the road surface and lost control. Note that these photos were taken less than 24 hours after the collision so such tire marks on a shoulder, if they had existed, would still have been visible.



As we reach the area of impact you can see that most of the collision evidence in the southbound lane of the Tractor Trailer as shown in the northbound view below.



If you have followed my many previous articles the POI should be fairly clear to you as evidenced by the fluid spray and gouging. Note the gouge in the pavement in the foreground. If you look carefully at the yellow centre-line you will see a tire mark on it and this is high-lighted in the northbound view below.



Post-impact the car rotated counter-clockwise and began to sliding sideways, leading with its right side, toward the right ditch. Evidence of that post-impact rotation on the road is visible in the northbound view below, which is just north of the POI.



In the background of the above photo you should see the fluid spray and tire marks indicating the vehicle's motion toward the east ditch.

The photo below shows those markings further north as the vehicle slides sideways toward the ditch.



Evidence of the side-ways slide of the right-rear tire of the car is seen in the northbound view below. This is a close-up view of that tire mark on the east edge of the road.



As the vehicle leaves the roadway it slides down into the east ditch as indicated in the photo below.



Coming back to the area of impact, the photo below is now a view looking southbound, or in the travel direction of the truck. If you look to the upper right of the photo below you should see the tire "skip" marks of the trailer just after impact as the trailer is pushed to the right (west) shoulder.



Those skip marks can be seen more clearly in the southbound view shown in the photo below.



The tractor-trailer eventually came to a stop about 150 metres south of the area of impact. This gives you an indication of the distance it requires for some of these units to come to a halt after an incident like this.

The curiosity of this event is that the rear wheels of the trailer of the truck were struck by the car. This is a rare occurrence, particularly when there is no evidence of loss of control. I have additional photos and further discussion to made on this issue and if I have time I will post them.