

LED Incident Reports October 2024

<https://www.softlights.org/led-incident-reports/>

October, 2024

October 27, 2024 – Los Angeles, CA – Autism

My partner and I took turns driving from Sacramento to San Diego during the day. For the most part, the drive was without incident. At about 4pm, we were in the Los Angeles area.

First, we witnessed the result of a fatality crash, with about 6 emergency vehicles with red LED flashing lights. I was the passenger, and was forced to shield my eyes from the flashing LEDs. Then I was struck at close range by the blue LED lights on a highway patrol car further down the freeway, causing me pain and anxiety.

Around 5pm, the blue-rich LED headlights started appearing, causing me to have to look out the passenger window. Then the blue-rich LED streetlights started turning on, causing me to flinch with each exposure. Then there were blue-rich LED wall packs and floodlights on my right and left which increased my agitation at each exposure.

As the sun set, we exited on a ramp, and tiny yellow LED flashing lights on multiple curve signs struck me directly at close range. After dark, we were inundated with blue-rich LED headlights, blue-rich LED streetlights, blue-rich flood lights, LED business signs, parking lot lighting, and intense LED red taillights. A commercial truck had red LEDs wrapped around the entire back of the truck.

When we arrived at my mother's house, a place I know well, I was hyper vigilant. Every light was now too bright. Every light was a danger. Everything was too bright. For the first time in my life, I was unable to greet my mother with enthusiasm. I was in shock.

My mother turned off all but one incandescent lamp, but when she asked me if she could turn on one more lamp, I broke down crying. I am now on edge. I am on hyper alert. Every light is an enemy.

October 21, 2024 – Paoli, PA – Migraine

I have recently started to suffer from severe chronic migraines. As a result, I am photophobic almost all of the time. This makes LED lights not only painful and very uncomfortable when I drive at night, but also dangerous. Whenever a car with LED lights passes me at night, I am blinded for about three seconds. I have to pray that a deer or other animal will not run out in front of my car, especially now that it is deer rutting season and the deer are very active. This is all made so much worse by the fact that many people in my area have new cars, meaning ultra bright or powerful LED lights. I did not have a migraine earlier today, but I may develop one soon after driving tonight.

October 20, 2024 – Harbor Springs, MI – None

I can't drive in the morning or at night because of these blinding headlights. This is crazy, worse than drunk drivers. What happened to the Auto Safety industry or safety regulations? I am either going to have to lose work/get fired because of this or literally drive blind and pray I don't die or kill someone else.

October 18, 2024 – Portland, OR – Astigmatism

I thought I could get over it, because LED headlights are so unavoidable. I tried everything I could possibly do to cope. But lately it has evolved to suicidal thoughts, because I feel like I'll never be able to live a normal life again. I was thinking maybe I have autism, maybe I should get that checked out, but I feel ridiculous. Do I really go tell a therapist that LED headlights make me want to kill myself? Is that what I have to do?

October 12, 2024 – Esparto, CA – Autism

I was driving behind a vehicle when it suddenly pulled to the side of the road. Coming towards us was an ambulance with LED flashing lights. I felt like I was electrocuted and was going to go unconscious. I instantly closed my eyes and stopped my car. After a few seconds, a car behind me honked, and when I opened my eyes, the ambulance was already gone. Now I'm suffering the psychological after-effects.

October 11, 2024 – Yolo County, CA – Autism

I was driving East on a County road in the day when a vehicle came towards me with intense, rapidly flashing amber LED lights. I felt panic rushing in and put my arms up to block the assault. Since I now couldn't see the road, I came to a full stop. Then somebody honked a horn. I moved my arms, and saw that the lead truck had passed, but a wide-load mobile home on a truck was inches from the left side of my car. These LED flashing lights are a menace and violation of our civil rights. My anxiety ran high for 30 minutes after the encounter.

October 11, 2024 – Brooklyn, NY – Other

Causes nervous system dysregulation which impacts motor skills & orientation, migraines, seizures, nausea, ability to digest food, vomiting

October 7, 2024 – Augusta, ME – Astigmatism

There are multiple times, every time that I am driving at night that certain oncoming vehicles had their high beams on, and I would put on my high beams, only for them to flash their brights at me because I was wrong. It seems to have gotten worse now that 1. I've been diagnosed with astigmatism, 2. I now live in a town that doesn't have street lights, and 3. I am driving more at night. It just seems as if EVERY oncoming vehicle have the high beams on. I try every trick in the book to not look directly at the lights, to focus on the right side line on the road and physically block out the lights with my hand. I am afraid of myself and the safety of others if I cannot see when I am driving, especially living in the state of Maine where moose are not easily seen in the dark.

October 6, 2024 – Howell, MI – None

Nice to find out I am not alone regarding this topic. Engineers at automotive companies are responsible for what I consider an environmental pollution nightmare. I never had any trouble driving at night until about the past 8 years or so when I noticed the blue LED lights being applied to more and more vehicles. At first, it was only a few vehicles so a bit of a nuisance, but manageable. Now almost 80% of the vehicles on the road have these super bright blue spectrum LED emitters just blasting out light. I can

literally feel the pain in my eyes when these vehicles approach. I started wearing my polarized sunglasses for driving all the time including nighttime. Does anyone know how those lights may be damaging our eyesight, especially at night when the pupil is dilated due to ambient darkness? Come on engineers, do your job! Ask the questions and demand the answers before you release products which can cause harm.

October 3, 2024 – Bethlehem, GA – None

I can no longer drive in what I feel to be a safe manner due to the piercing brightness of headlights. Over the last year they have become so sharp on the eyes that even in the various hours of the morning, dusk night and even overcast days I am forced to stare at the white line in the side of the road. Giant, oversized trucks with these horrid headlights are near perfectly at eye level often times leaving me stunned.

I've had my eyes checked to ensure they're is no damage to them or a condition being developed that's in need of correction. This is not the case as aside from a mild prescription I received a couple years ago, nothing has changed personally.

I've also made mention of the problem to friends and family and ALL agree that it's out of control. My mother refusing to drive at night as well at this point.

It's flat out dangerous to the public and out of control.

October 1, 2024 – Elk Grove, CA – Autism

I attempted to enter a large box store that had installed collections of LED "white" tube lights in the ceiling. I glanced up at these LED lights and immediately felt eye pain. I turned and left the store, knowing that the situation would only get worse if I remained.

October 1, 2024 – Easton, MA – None

There are multiple times, almost nightly, that I would bet my paycheck that certain oncoming vehicles had their high beams on, and I would put on my high beams, only for them to flash their brights at me because I was wrong. I've been driving for almost 50 years and I have always preferred driving at night until the last 5 or 6 six years or so. It just seems as if EVERY oncoming vehicle have the high beams on. I try every trick in the book to not look directly at the lights, to focus on the right side line on the road and I've even purchased a few pairs of night driving glasses. The glasses reduce the glare a little bit, but doesn't help much. Most of the sunglasses I have work, but I can't see the road properly. After an oncoming car passes I have difficulty seeing, have spots etc, that last anywhere between 20 and 55 seconds where I have limited visuals on the road, instead of my usual 100% attention, while waiting for my eyes to adjust. Sometimes after I get to my destination, I realize I have a headache. My first car had two round, sealed beam headlights with incandescent lamps. Only one was functioning and that was plenty of light for me to see and drive. My current vehicle, a 2018 Silverado has more than enough light and projects for what seems like a half mile in front of me. I don't need to see that far down the road!. When I put the brights on, its crazy bright! I don't need all of that light. Things would be a little better if they eliminated to Auto-High-Beam function. Massachusetts drivers complained years ago of the brightness of the State Police emergency lights being too bright, practically blinding you as you were approaching the police cruiser. Eventually after a few collisions and unfortunately injured troopers, they changed the lights to be less intense. I get stressed out when I have to drive at night because of this easy-to-rectify problem with LED Lights being so bright, when they don't have to be.