# Book review from the desk of Joseph E. Badger

In 1988 there was *Human Factors: Road, Vehicle and Driver Perception & Reaction*. In 1997, Merrill Allen's *Forensic Aspects of Vision and Highway Safety*, and in 2010, the 3rd Ed. of *Forensics Aspects of Driver Perception* by Paul Olson, Robert Dewar and Eugene Farber. And there was David Krauss' *Forensic Aspects of Driver Perception and Response*, 4th Ed. and *Forensic Vision with Application to Highway Safety* by Marc Green, Merrill J. Allen, Bernard S. Abrams and Leslie Weintraub.
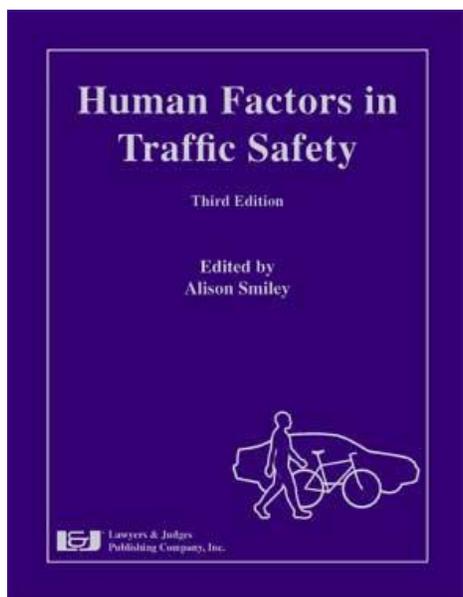
Oh, how about one more, 2011: *Forensic Aspects of Driver Inexperience & Accident Causation* by Scott Walmsley.

One would think by now just about everything that could be written about driver perception, reaction and such had been written.

Wrong.

And why that's wrong is that those books presented the views and findings of only a few experts on the specified subjects. Since then, Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company has rounded up several other experts who have finally put their collective heads together for what is probably the definitive text on the topics.

This new, 4½-pound tome is titled **Human Factors in Traffic Safety**, **3rd Ed**. True, the titles, while close-sounding and cover much of the same material from different points of view, there are many other views from several "new" sources out there. L&J



Publishing amassed the likes of Alison Smiley, who edited chapters by Gerson Alexander, Cher Carney, Robert Dewar, Bonnie M. Dobbs, Paul Green, Fred Hanscom, Sarah Keller, Jeff Linkenbach, Michael Lustman, Daniel McGehee, Herbert Moskowitz and many more...

The publisher tells us "This new edition has been extensively revised. All chapters have been edited and updated, along with new chapters on aggressive driving, intersection and roundabout crashes, positive guidance, and the traffic safety culture paradigm. If you are involved with accident investigation or the promotion of traffic safety in any capacity, this book is an essential part of your library."

Topics include – but aren't limited to – Understanding Road Users; Information Processing; Attention and Driver Workload; Where Drivers Look while Driving (and for How Long); Driver Perception-Response Time; Driver Distraction and Road Safety; Fatigue and Driving; Medical Conditions and Driving; The Visibility Provided by Vehicle Lighting Systems; Intersection and Roundabout Crashes; and The Traffic Safety Culture Paradigm.

The list, as they say, goes on.

Of the 21 contributing authors, 13 are Ph.D.'s; six are female.

And if you really don't know what a paradigm is, you're just going to have to look it up like I did.

This 542-page encyclopedic text should be on the shelf of accident reconstructionists, both those active in – and retired from – law enforcement and in the private sector. Engineers, traffic safety experts and attorneys who work vehicle crash cases would benefit as well.

To peruse the book's comprehensive Table of Contents, go to http://www.lawyersandjudges.com/products/human-factors-traffic-safety-third?variant=9154337475.

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(About the reviewer:  Joseph E. Badger is an internationally known accident reconstructionist and consultant who has had over 100 articles published in such periodicals as *Law and Order* magazine, *Accident Reconstruction Journal*, *Accident Investigation Quarterly*, and others.  Having retired after 20 years with the Indiana State Police, Mr. Badger resides in Bloomington, Indiana.)