

The SAFER Barrier

SAFER barrier stands for Steel and Foam Energy Reduction Barrier. It was developed from 1998 to 2002 at the Midwest Roadside Safety Facility at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and was first installed at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 2002. Since then, the SAFER barrier has been installed in sections of all NASCAR tracks and many Indy tracks. The SAFER barrier decreases the risk of driver injury or death at dangerous points along the race track. Not all of the tracks' walls can be covered with the SAFER barrier and is usually only installed at trouble spots where impacts are likely to occur. It works best at oval tracks but is effectively used at key points along road courses and at the Tricky Triangle at Pocono. The last NASCAR driver to die during a racing incident was racing legend Dale Earnhardt, Sr. in 2001, before the installation of the SAFER barrier.



Primary Source

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nascar/2015/02/23/talladega-superspeedway-safer-barriers-kyle-busch-crash-wall-daytona-international-speedway/23913149/>

Secondary Source

<https://invention.si.edu/safer-barriers-nascar>