Brake Assist

What is brake assist?

When you suddenly apply the brakes in an emergency, brake assist helps you to make full use of available braking power.

Drivers typically do not react fast enough or apply enough force on the brakes during an emergency stop. Many people take a few seconds to assess the danger beforehand, while some people are lighter or shorter. This delay or light pressure could mean the difference between stopping in time and experiencing a collision.

Brake assist technology recognizes the signs of panic braking and increases the force applied on the brakes to help compensate for delayed reactions.

How does brake assist work?

Brake assist works by monitoring two aspects of panic braking:

1. How fast you move your foot from the gas to the brake; and,
2. How hard you push on the brake pedal. Pushing fast enough and hard enough triggers brake assist to increase the braking force.

There are two types of brake assist:

- Electronic systems compare your braking reaction to average panic braking thresholds and engage when your braking exceeds these thresholds. Over time, your car's electronic system will learn your braking habits and adjust to your braking style.

- Mechanical braking activates when the brake pedal is pressed beyond a critical threshold. These systems cannot adjust to the driver's braking style.

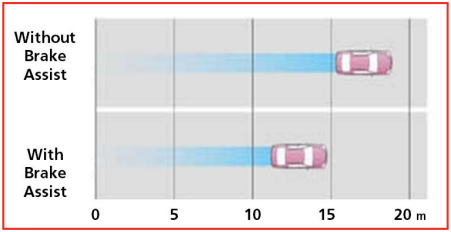

Image courtesy of Toyota Canada

Important points regarding brake assist

- There are various types of brake assist systems, such as Emergency Brake Assist (EBA) and Predictive Brake Assist (PBA) and each system works in a different manner. Review your owner's manual to determine which type is on your car.
- Only panic braking will trigger brake assist. In an emergency, you must press the brake as hard and as fast as you can in order for it to activate.
- Factors that affect your reaction time, such as distractions, fatigue, or speeding, mean that you may not react quickly enough or have enough time to make full use of braking power.

Visit www.brainonboard.ca to learn more.

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