

GLOSSARY

Alcohol Involved Crash

Any motor vehicle traffic crash where a driver, pedestrian, or bicyclist had been drinking.

At Fault

The involved party in a motor vehicle traffic crash determined by the investigating officer to be most at fault.

Bicycle Involved

A traffic crash involving at least one bicycle in a solo crash, as well as those involved with a parked vehicle or moving motor vehicle, pedestrian, or with another bicycle.

Bicyclist

In this report, the term bicyclist will be used to denote bicyclist victims or bicyclist parties. Bicyclist victims include the driver (rider) and/or passenger of any device propelled exclusively by human power through a belt, chain, or gears, and having two or more wheels. A bicyclist party is comprised of only a driver of the vehicle described above.

Crash

For the purpose of this report, the terms “crash” and “motor vehicle traffic crash” have the same definition. See “motor vehicle traffic crash.”

Complaint of Pain

Injuries claimed but not evident (includes limping claimed to have been caused by the crash).

County Roadways

Any roadway in the unincorporated area of a county that is not an Interstate, United States, or state route.

Driver

For the purpose of this report, the terms “driver” and “motor vehicle driver” have the same definition. See “motor vehicle driver.”

Driving Under Influence/Primary Crash Factor

Driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or drugs which in the investigating officer’s opinion best describes the primary crash factor (PCF) or main cause of the crash.

Driving Under Influence/Primary Crash Factor (continued)

Prior to 2002, when the Sobriety-Drug/Physical field on the traffic crash report indicated B-HBD-Under Influence or E-Under Drug Influence for the party at fault and the officer indicated a PCF violation other than DUI, the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) program would change the PCF to DUI. Effective with the 2002 reengineering of SWITRS, the PCF violation is no longer changed from the PCF violation indicated by the officer.

Fatal Crash

A motor vehicle traffic crash resulting in the death of one or more persons within 30 days of the crash.

The death of a fetus of a pregnant female involved in a traffic crash is a fatal injury if the coroner attributes the death to the crash. Prior to 2002, fetus was included in the 60 and over age group, 65 and over age group, and 85 and over age group.

Had Been Drinking (HBD)

The description of the condition of a driver, pedestrian, or bicyclist involved in a crash with regard to alcohol. The party can be described as "Had Been Drinking-under influence, Had Been Drinking-not under influence, or Had Been Drinking-impairment unknown."

In 1992, California legislation made it unlawful for an operator of a commercial vehicle to drive when their blood alcohol level is .04 percent or greater.

In 1995, California legislation made it unlawful for motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21 to drive with a blood alcohol level of .05 percent or greater.

HBD-Impairment Unknown

Had Been Drinking but it is impossible to determine the extent of impairment. For example, the involved party was unconscious when removed from the crash scene, or was fatally injured in the crash.

HBD-Not Under Influence

The investigating officer has determined that the involved party HBD and was not under the influence.

HBD-Under Influence

The investigating officer has determined that the involved party HBD and was under the influence.

HBD-Under Influence (continued)

NOTE: In California, presumptive evidence indicates that a party is under the influence when their blood alcohol level is .08 percent or greater. However, someone with a blood alcohol level less than .08 percent can also be determined under the influence by the investigating officer. Prior to 1990, the alcohol level necessary for presumed under the influence was .10 percent or greater.

Hit-and-Run

The investigating officer has determined that the facts and evidence indicate either a felony or misdemeanor hit-and-run was committed. Hit-and-run is the failure of a driver involved in a crash to stop and provide identification to the other involved parties or property owner or to law enforcement officials. When an injury or death to another party is involved, the hit-and-run becomes a felony.

Incorporated

A community which has obtained a charter and established itself as a corporation. The community is usually referred to as a city and has its own police, fire, and other governmental agencies.

Injured

A person sustaining injuries as the result of a motor vehicle traffic crash. This includes victims when the extent of injury is classified as severe wound, other visible injuries, or complaint of pain. Victims killed are not included as injured.

Injury Crash

A motor vehicle traffic crash resulting in injury to one or more persons. Injury would include severe wound, other visible injuries, or complaint of pain. A fatal crash is not included in injury crash.

Killed

A person who dies, as a result of a motor vehicle crash, within 30 days of the crash.

Licensed Motorcycle Drivers

M1 motorcycle or M2 motorcycle includes any two-wheeled motorcycle or any two-wheel motor-driven cycle.

Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC)

A voluntary guideline that provides states and localities with information about data elements collected at the scene of a crash and included in the state database.

Moped

A moped or motorized bicycle is any two-wheeled or three-wheeled device having fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power, or having no pedals. If powered solely by electrical energy, and an automatic transmission and a motor which produces less than two gross brake horsepower, and is capable of propelling the device at a maximum speed of not more than 30 miles per hour on level ground.

Motor Vehicle

A mechanically or electrically powered device not operated on rails, upon which or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn upon a roadway. This would include motorized bicycles (mopeds).

Motor Vehicle Driver

A person who drives or is in actual control of a motor vehicle. This would include the rider of a moped or motorcycle.

Motor Vehicle Registration

Number of automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles registered with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The figure used includes DMV fee paid motorized vehicles and does not include exempt vehicles or trailers.

Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash

An unintended event that causes death, injury, or property damage involving a motor vehicle in transport (in motion or in readiness for motion) on a roadway (a way or place) any part of which is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

Motorcycle Involved

A motor vehicle traffic crash involving at least one motorcycle (includes crashes involving mopeds).

Motorcycle Registration

The number of two-wheeled motorcycles and two-wheeled motor-driven cycles registered with the California DMV.

To view specification requirements for these registered vehicles, please see definitions (Moped, Motorcyclist) for clarification.

Motorcyclist

In this report, the term motorcyclist will be used to denote motorcyclist victims or motorcyclist parties. Motorcyclist victims include the driver (rider) and/or passenger of any motor vehicle, other than a tractor, having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider, and designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and weighing less than 1,500 pounds. Four wheels may be in contact with the ground when two of the wheels are a functional part of a sidecar. Motorcyclist victims also include the rider or passenger of a moped. A motorcyclist party is comprised of only the driver of the vehicle described above.

Other Visible Injuries

Injury, other than fatal or severe, which is evident to any person at the crash scene.

Party

A participant in a motor vehicle traffic crash. A party involved in a crash may be categorized as a driver, pedestrian, parked vehicle, bicyclist, or other.

Passenger

A passenger is any occupant of a vehicle other than its driver. This includes passengers on bicycles, mopeds, and motorcycles.

Pedestrian

Any person not in or upon a vehicle, bicycle, or animal. Includes a person in or operating a pedestrian conveyance; such as a baby carriage, coaster wagon, skateboard, roller skates, skis, sled, nonmotorized and motorized wheelchair, and a person in or upon a device moved by pedaling, except a bicycle. Excludes a person boarding or alighting from a conveyance, except a pedestrian conveyance, and a person jumping or falling from a motor vehicle.

Pedestrian Involved

A motor vehicle traffic crash involving a motor vehicle and at least one pedestrian.

Possible Injury

Any injury reported or claimed which is not a fatal, suspected serious, or suspected minor injury. Possible injuries are those which are reported by the person or are indicated by their behavior, but no wounds or injuries are readily evident.

Primary Crash Factor

The one element or driving action which, in the investigating officer's opinion, best describes the primary or main cause of the crash.

Prior to 2002, the SWITRS program changed the PCF to "Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs" or "Pedestrian Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs" if these PCFs were supported by the Sobriety-Drug/Physical field on the traffic crash report as marked by the investigating officer. With the 2002 reengineering of SWITRS, the PCF is not changed from what the investigating officer has stated; therefore, many categories of PCF are not comparable to prior years, e.g., "Speed."

Property Damage Only Crash

A noninjury motor vehicle traffic crash which results in property damage.

Rider

A person who drives or is in actual control of a moped or motorcycle.

Roadway

The part of a road, publicly maintained, and open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

Safety Equipment

Safety equipment includes lap belt, shoulder harness, lap/shoulder harness, passive restraint, and air bag for vehicle occupants and helmet for motorcyclists and bicyclists.

Severe Wound

An injury which prevents the injured party from walking, driving, or performing activities they were normally capable of before the crash.

Suspected Minor Injury

Any injury that is evident at the scene of the crash, other than fatal or serious injuries.

Suspected Serious Injury

Any injury other than fatal which results in severe laceration resulting in exposure of underlying tissues/muscles/organs or significant loss of blood; broken or distorted extremity; crush injuries; suspected skull, chest, or abdominal injury other than bruises or minor lacerations; unconsciousness when taken from the crash scene; and paralysis.

Truck

A truck with two or more axles, or truck tractor, operated singly or with one or more trailers or semi-trailers (excludes pickups, panel trucks, or vans).

Type of Crash

The category which best describes the general type of crash which was the first event. Head-on, sideswipe, rear end, and broadside are used only if two or more motor vehicles are involved in the first event.

Unincorporated

That portion of a county that is not incorporated; outside city limits.

Unincorporated Roadways

Those roadways outside city limits (excludes all incorporated city roadways; includes county roadways and unincorporated state highways).

Unincorporated State Highways

Those Interstates, United States, or state routes located outside incorporated city limits.

Vehicle

For the purpose of this report the terms "vehicle" and "motor vehicle" have the same definition. See "motor vehicle."

Vehicle Occupant

Includes a driver or a passenger in the following vehicle types: passenger car; station wagon; jeep; pickup or panel truck, with or without trailer(s); and truck or truck tractor, with or without trailer(s).

Victim

Any person killed or injured as the result of a motor vehicle traffic crash.