

Michigan State Police

Crash Advisory # 6



April 2005

Revised May 2008

I was involved in a traffic crash while on duty in my patrol car. The crash appears on my driver record. Why?

If you are involved in a crash while driving your patrol car, the crash will NOT appear on the Driver Record that your insurance agent receives. Michigan law prohibits the release of such information to non-government agencies (this applies only to vehicles OWNED by a government agency, so volunteer firefighters, for example, driving THEIR OWN VEHICLES do not qualify for this provision).

To see if your “on duty” crash appears on your driver record, run a 47:36 on LEIN (this is the Edited version sent to insurance agencies). When your brother-in-law Floyd calls (who happens to be your insurance agent) and wants you to pull him a copy of your record, do not do it! If you run a 47:42 (which most law enforcement agencies run when a driver is stopped), you will see the unedited report, which WILL show your “on duty” crash. But the report insurance agencies receive from the Department of State is the Edited (47:36) version. So tell Floyd to request a report from the Department of State. Remember, using LEIN for personal purposes is a violation of Michigan law.

Officers call us and want to know why their “on duty” crash appears on their Driver Record. In nearly every case, they are running the Unedited (47:42) report which insurance agents do not receive. If your “on duty” crash appears on a 47:36, call us and we can discuss how to set the record straight.

*As a rule, remember that if special vehicle is marked 1 (Police vehicle) 2(Fire vehicle) or 4 (Ambulance) then vehicle use 3 (In Pursuit/On emergency) or 8 (Other Government) should also be marked. Ensuring this is done will prohibit the crash from being posted to the officer’s edited record.

I was using the push-bumper of my patrol car to push a disabled vehicle (Unit #1). The driver hit another car (Unit #2). How do I write this up?

Since you (the officer) were supplying the power to the disabled vehicle, YOU must be listed as the Driver of Unit #1 and the disabled vehicle as your TRAILER. This is a TWO-UNIT crash. Even though the “operator” of Unit #1 may have steered into Unit #2, YOU are listed as the Driver of Unit #1. If you were supplying the power, YOU were the Driver (SURPRISE!).

Please Distribute to All Personnel Who Complete or Review Traffic Crash Reports

