

Michigan State Police

Crash Advisory # 26



May 2009

Unstabilized Situation – One unstabilized event or two?

An unstabilized situation is a set of events not under human control. It originates when control is lost and terminates when control is regained or, in the absence of persons who are able to regain control, when all persons and property are at rest.

Example 1

A vehicle brakes to avoid contact with something (like an object, animal or other vehicle) and at the same time a second vehicle swerves to avoid the first vehicle. The first vehicle runs off the road striking a guardrail, the second vehicle loses control and strikes a tree. Even though the vehicles do not strike each other, this is considered a 2 unit crash and one unstabilized event because it was a continuous series of events.

Example 2

A pedestrian is struck by vehicle 1 and thrown into the air and is subsequently struck by vehicle 2 before coming to rest. This is considered a 3 unit crash, and one unstabilized event. If the pedestrian had come to rest, then another vehicle hit them this would be considered two separate crashes.

*In both examples above, crash type should be marked “Other/Unknown”.

Is a mail carrier a driver or a passenger?

A mail carrier is still considered a driver. You would fill out the UD-10 just as you would any other driver with the exception of their seating position. The seating position would be coded as 03. (front seat, right side)

Roundabouts – How do you code Trafficway and Access control in a roundabout?

Trafficway : use code 2 (Divided highway, median strip, without traffic barrier)
Access Control: use code 3 (Other partial access control)

Number of Lanes – Which lanes get counted?

Count the total number of lanes that are legally open for travel, this includes flare lanes and turn lanes. Legal parking lanes whether occupied or not, shall not be counted.

Example

An east and west bound one lane roadway with a right turn lane attached at the intersection to both directions of travel. The total lanes counted would be 4 since all 4 lanes can be legally traveled upon. If the roadway is divided, count the total number of lanes in a single direction of traffic from the point where the first impact of the crash took place. An accurate diagram showing all lanes is recommended.

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

