



SUBJECT: Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes

TO: Members of the Department

This Order establishes department policy and member responsibilities for the following:

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52.1 MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC CRASHES

As defined in the Michigan Vehicle Code, Act 300 of 1949, [Section 257.622](#), the definition of a crash is as follows:

- A. The driver of a motor vehicle involved in a crash that injures or kills any person, or that damages property to an apparent extent totaling \$1,000.00 or more, shall immediately report that crash at the nearest or most convenient police station, or to the nearest or most convenient police officer.
- B. This Order provides policy and procedures for the investigation and reporting of motor vehicle crashes. It also contains instructions for determining a crash as a traffic crash or a non-traffic crash, as well as the dissemination and purchasing of copies of crash reports.

52.1.1. MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

A. Reporting and Recording Motor Vehicle Crashes Occurring on a Public Highway

- (1) Traffic crashes occurring on a public highway are normally assigned a 9300-1 file class. Exceptions to this rule are listed in Section 52.1.1.C below.
- (2) Enforcement members, acting within the scope of their lawful authority, shall accept reports of all motor vehicle crashes made to them by any person, which occur on a public roadway. In each case, they shall prepare as completely as possible and submit to the Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC), in the manner prescribed by this section, copies of the electronic crash form, and other reports if required.
- (3) Enforcement members, acting within the scope of their lawful authority, shall take such reports regardless of the seriousness of the crash. For further information regarding required crash reporting see [MCL 257.620](#), [MCL 257.621](#), [MCL 257.622](#), [MCL 324.81143](#), and [MCL 324.82132](#).
- (4) An on-scene investigation shall normally be made of every motor vehicle crash reported.
- (5) Enforcement members shall be guided by commonly-accepted investigation procedures while conducting a crash investigation. These procedures may include instruction received during recruit school and through subsequent refreshers and advanced training. The "[ANSI D16.1-2017 Manual on Classification of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes](#)," published by the Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals, shall be used as a guide when defining and classifying motor vehicle crashes.

B. Reporting and Recording Non-Traffic Motor Vehicle Crashes

- (1) Non-traffic crashes are those not occurring on a public roadway and are assigned a 9300-2 file class.
- (2) A non-traffic crash shall be investigated and reported when it involves a death or personal injury, a hit-and-run, a department or privately owned vehicle being used for department business, or a snowmobile or off-road vehicle (ORV) with estimated property damage of \$100.00 or more.

Work site commanders may develop local policies, based on workload or other requirements, for reporting non-traffic crashes that do not meet the above criteria.

- (3) A report of a non-traffic crash shall be accepted and recorded upon the request of a driver of a vehicle which has struck an unattended vehicle, if the driver or owner cannot be located for notification, according to [MCL 257.620](#).

C. Reporting and recording a criminal violation related to a traffic or non-traffic crash shall be completed using one of the following four procedures.

- (1) Where a violation (i.e., Operating While Intoxicated [OWI], Operating Under the Influence of Drugs [OUID], Operating While Visibly Impaired [OWVI], Operating with the Presence of Drugs [OWPD]) contributes to the crash, an electronic crash form shall be completed and assigned the appropriate file class in accordance with the hierarchy rule for file class designation.

- (2) Any incident and/or violation that occurs but does not contribute to the crash shall be recorded using a separate incident report in addition to the electronic crash form. The report shall be assigned a separate incident number with the appropriate file class designation. When the crash involves a hit and run, upon either public or private property, an electronic crash form shall be completed and assigned the appropriate file class in accordance with the hierarchy rule for the file class designation.
 - (3) If a crash results in a manslaughter or negligent homicide violation, an additional incident report with the same incident number shall be submitted. Both the electronic crash form and the additional incident report shall be assigned the appropriate 0900 file class.
- D. An electronic crash form is required under the following statutes: [MCL 257.622](#), [MCL 257.620](#), and [MCL 257.621](#).
- E. Completion of an electronic crash form is not required for non-traffic motor vehicle crashes except as outlined in this section.
- F. Non-traffic motor vehicle crashes involving a department vehicle, or a privately owned vehicle being used for department business, shall be reported according to Official Order No. 10.
- G. Number of Copies and Distribution
- (1) The electronic crash form shall be completed and distributed in the following manner:
 - a. The original copy shall be sent to the CJIC Traffic Crash Reporting Unit (TCRU) utilizing eCrash.
 - b. A photocopy shall be placed in the post master file. If the report is completed utilizing an electronic crash form, a copy of the report does not need to be retained at the work site.

A photocopy may be retained as the post work file copy as allowed by Official Order No. 5.
 - c. If the enforcement member believes that road maintenance or engineering is a factor in the crash, that information shall be included in the "Remarks" section of the electronic crash form and a copy may be forwarded to the local road commission or local office of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

One additional copy of the electronic crash form, including supplementary reports, shall be forwarded to the district headquarters involved. The district headquarters shall review the report, contact the affected highway office, and follow up on any road maintenance or engineering changes deemed necessary.
 - d. When a crash results in damage to a traffic control device, sign, or signal, the agency responsible for its repair shall be notified immediately. Enforcement members shall fill out the appropriate section of the electronic crash form, noting the agency and person contacted.
- H. Reports Required When Limited Information is Available
- (1) An electronic crash form shall be submitted on the date of the original investigation when practical and forwarded for distribution in the prescribed manner.

- a. In the event that not all the information is available for immediate completion of the electronic crash form, submission of the report may be delayed up to two weeks if needed, in order to gather additional information.
 - b. Fatal traffic crash reports shall be submitted via LEIN immediately followed by the electronic crash form within ten days. Additional information may be submitted as outlined below.
- (2) When the information (other than a closing) is not available for completion of the electronic crash form within the time constraints mentioned above, the initial information shall be submitted and then followed by a revision through eCrash when all the necessary information is available.
 - (3) When delayed information is received indicating a death due to injuries received in a crash, such information shall be forwarded to the Operations Section via LEIN and a revision of the electronic crash form through eCrash.
 - (4) Investigations of unfounded reports of motor vehicle crashes shall be reported using an appropriate incident reporting method.
- I. Reporting Traffic Investigation Assistance
- (1) When directing traffic is the only assistance rendered at the scene of a crash, the incident report shall have a 9300-6 file class and shall be submitted using an appropriate incident reporting method.
 - (2) When an enforcement member assists another post in the investigation of a motor vehicle crash, an incident report shall be completed with an original incident number and appropriate file class. The report shall refer to the originating post's incident number and nature of the incident as both a prominent heading and entry in the body of the incident report.
 - (3) When an enforcement member assists another police agency in the investigation of a motor vehicle crash and the electronic crash form is submitted by that agency, the enforcement member shall report the type of assistance rendered on an incident report bearing the appropriate file class. The report shall contain the following information:
 - a. County and city, village, or township where the crash occurred.
 - b. Name of roadway upon which the crash occurred in relation to the name of the nearest intersecting roadway or identifiable point given on a standard state, county, or city map. Private property crashes should include the address of such property.
 - c. Names of drivers involved in the crash.
 - d. Registration plate and vehicle identification numbers of vehicles involved.
 - e. Names of persons killed in the crash.
 - f. Nature of assistance or investigation provided.

52.1.2. COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS

Every reasonable effort shall be made to obtain factual information on all items required on the electronic crash form. However, enforcement members shall use their best judgment and record their considered opinions on driver, bicyclist, pedestrian, and engineer/train condition, which shall indicate alcohol and/or drug consumption, hazardous actions, and how the crash happened. These opinions shall be based on their investigation of the crash, as well as their knowledge gained from past experience. This shall be done even though it may not be possible to substantiate all recorded information or obtain sufficient evidence to initiate prosecution.

All members of the department shall adhere to the "State of Michigan UD-10 Traffic Crash Report Instruction Manual" when completing the electronic crash form.

52.1.3. PHOTOGRAPHS IN MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH INVESTIGATION

Photographs shall be taken at the scene of a motor vehicle crash when necessary to record factual information, reconstruct the crash, and record evidence to support any violation of the law that may have contributed to the cause of the crash. Indicate whether or not photographs were taken in the "Photos" field near the right top corner.

A. Photographs shall be taken for the following types of vehicle crashes:

- (1) Fatal or serious injury crashes
- (2) Serious and complicated crashes
- (3) Crashes involving buses or vehicles containing large groups of people.
- (4) Crashes involving department vehicles and privately owned vehicles being used for department business, with the exception of minor property damage crashes.

B. Photographs Taken by Private Citizens

If it is necessary to have pictures taken by a private citizen, the person must understand that the pictures are for department purposes and that the person may be subpoenaed into court with the pictures. Copies of such pictures shall be obtained for department files. Requests of this nature shall only be made when absolutely necessary.

C. Release of Photographs

Members shall only release photographs consistent with the provisions listed in Official Order No. 20 and Official Order No. 56.

52.1.4. DAILY REPORTS OF FATAL TRAFFIC CRASHES AND DEATHS

Prompt, accurate, and complete reporting to the Operations Section of fatal traffic crashes and traffic deaths is necessary to compile records of current traffic fatality trends and to make reliable comparisons with previous experience for both evaluation and awareness purposes.

A. Agencies Reporting

Post commanders, through normal contact with reporting agencies in their respective areas, shall urge prompt and complete reporting of fatal crashes and deaths to either the local post or directly to the Operations Section.

B. Information to be reported to the Operations Section and Respective District Headquarters

- (1) Fatal crashes investigated by the Michigan State Police, as well as information received from local agencies for relay, shall be reported immediately to the respective district headquarters and to the Operations Section via LEIN. The information shall be forwarded to the Operations Section on the Fatal Traffic Crash Report that can be accessed in LEIN.
- (2) In the event a person subsequently dies of injuries received within 30 days of the traffic crash, that information shall be submitted to the Operations Section via LEIN. "See the State of Michigan UD-10 Traffic Crash Report Instruction Manual."

52.1.5. RELEASE OF TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

A. Release of Traffic Crash Reports

- (1) Persons wishing to obtain a copy of a specific electronic crash form shall be instructed to access the [Traffic Crash Purchasing System \(TCPS\) website](#) via the link on the department's Internet home page. They shall also be advised that there is a \$10.00 fee for this service.
- (2) If an individual is unable to access the TCPS website, work sites shall charge a \$10.00 fee for a copy of the electronic crash report. Members shall ensure the release of the electronic crash form complies with [MCL 257.503](#) and have the individual complete the Release of Motor Vehicle Crash Report Request, UD-009 form.
 - a. An Official State Police Receipt, ADM-027, shall be completed for the \$10.00 fee and processed in accordance with local post policy and Official Order No. 8.

B. Release of Names of Fatal Crash Victims

- (1) The names of fatal crash victims shall not be released to the media until all attempts have been made to notify an immediate family member.
- (2) Details surrounding the crash may be released to the media, advising that the victims' names will be released once contact has been made with the family.
- (3) If the victim of a fatal crash is a prominent person, such as a public or government official, entertainment personality, or other well-known person, the procedure for releasing their name shall be the same as for any other person, except that the Operations Section and the department's Public Affairs Section shall be notified before notification has been made to the media.

C. Inquiries Concerning Traffic Crashes When Only Limited Information is Supplied

When information supplied by an inquirer is so meager or inaccurate that it is impossible to identify the incident by the work site or via the TCPS website, the inquirer shall be advised to contact the CJIC TCRU. The CJIC TCRU keeps traffic crash reports on file for a period of ten years plus the current year and may search the TCRS database.

D. Inquiries Concerning Traffic Crashes Investigated by Other Departments

Persons inquiring about crashes investigated by other departments shall be informed that the crash was not investigated by the Michigan State Police and shall be referred to the investigating department or the TCRU. (Link to website: www.michigan.gov/crash)

E. Pertinent Information May be Withheld in Certain Instances

Images of an electronic crash form may be released, or information from reports may be revealed, to qualified persons regardless of whether or not prosecution is pending. However, this Order shall not be construed to mean that all information pertaining to the crash must be revealed. If a request is made for additional pages, supplementary reports, or information that, if released, would jeopardize prosecution, the request and copies of all materials shall be forwarded to the Records Resource Section, according to Official Order No. 20.

52.1.6. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Enforcement members who, as the result of their personal investigation, have reasonable cause to believe that a driver has committed an offense shall take appropriate enforcement action. Appropriate enforcement action may include a traffic citation, a verbal warning, or an arrest. For further information see [MCL 257.728](#), [MCL 257.742](#).

52.2 REVISION RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for continuous review and revision of this Order lies with the Field Operations Bureau and Intelligence and Technology Bureau, in cooperation with the Office of Professional Development.

DIRECTOR