


MINNESOTA  
TOWARD **ZERO** DEATHS

## WHAT EXACTLY IS A TRAFFIC CRASH?

Characteristics of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes  
(As defined in ANSI D16.1, American National Standard:  
Manual on Classification of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes)



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Definition of a Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash:

*A motor vehicle traffic crash is a motor vehicle crash which is also a traffic crash.*

Clear as mud????

### 8 [Simple] Questions

1. Did the incident include one or more occurrences of injury or damage?
2. Was there at least one occurrence of injury or damage which was **not** a direct result of a cataclysm nor was the first harmful event produced by the discharge of a firearm?
3. Did the incident involve one or more motor vehicles?
4. Of the motor vehicles involved, was at least one in-transport?
5. Was the incident an unstabilized situation?
6. Did the unstabilized situation originate on a trafficway or did injury or damage occur on a trafficway?
7. If the incident involved a railway train in transport, did a motor vehicle in transport become involved prior to any injury or damage involving that train?
8. Is it true that neither an aircraft in transport nor a watercraft in transport was involved in the incident?







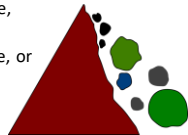


Did the incident include one or more occurrences of injury or damage? *What is an **injury**? What is **damage**?*

- injury: bodily harm to a person
- excludes effects of disease, such as heart attack, stroke, or any other injury/illness that is not a result of the crash
- death must occur within 30 days (720 hours) of the crash in order to be considered a result of the crash
- includes injury or damage from 'non-collision' incidents
- damage: harm to property totaling at least \$1000



Was there at least one occurrence of injury or damage which was **not** a direct result of a **cataclysm** nor was the first harmful event produced by the discharge of a **firearm**? *What is a cataclysm?*

- cataclysm: a large scale and violent event in the natural world
- examples of cataclysm: avalanche, landslide/mudslide, hurricane, cyclone, downburst, flood, torrential rain, cloudburst, lightning, tornado, tidal wave, earthquake, or volcanic eruption, winds above 75 mph, damage produced by very large hail
- example of natural events that are NOT considered cataclysms: rain, thunderstorms, small hail, ice, snow, fog, a few small falling rocks not associated with a landslide or avalanche, falling tree, shallow standing water

Did the incident involve one or more motor vehicles?  
*What is a motor vehicle?*

- **motor vehicle** : any motorized road vehicle not operated on rails. A **road vehicle** is a land vehicle other than a railway vehicle. A **land vehicle** is a transport vehicle operating on land. A **transport vehicle** is a device (or animal) designed primarily for moving property from one place to another, excluding personal conveyances
- examples include electrically powered buses, motorized cycles, working motor vehicles, electric vehicles, low speed vehicle
- examples of vehicles NOT included: Railway vehicles (including Light Rail) motorized personal conveyance, motorized skate board or scooter, motorized toy car, motorized wheelchair, Segway device













Of the motor vehicles involved, was at least one in-transport? *What does 'in-transport' mean?*





- The term 'in-transport' denotes the state or condition of a transport vehicle which is in motion or within the portion of a transport way ordinarily used by a transport vehicle.
- examples of motor vehicles in transport:
  - a motor vehicle in the roadway lanes (either parked or in motion)
  - a driverless motor vehicle in motion
  - a motor vehicle in motion outside trafficway
  - a stopped motor vehicle with any portion of the vehicle in the travel lanes
- examples of motor vehicles NOT in transport:
  - motor vehicle stopped off the roadway, but within the trafficway
  - motor vehicle stopped in the parking lanes when parking is allowed
  - motor vehicle performing construction, maintenance, or utility work related to a trafficway

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Was the incident an **unstabilized situation**?  
*What is an unstabilized situation?*

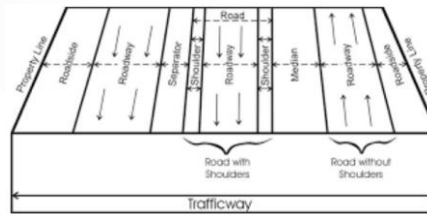
- **unstabilized situation:** a set of events not under human control (originates when control is lost and ends when control is regained or when all persons and property come to a rest)
- a situation is NOT unstabilized if it is the result of deliberate intent
- **legal intervention:** a category of deliberate intent in which the person who acts or refrains from acting is a law-enforcing agent or other official

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Did the unstabilized situation originate on a **trafficway** or did injury or damage occur on a trafficway? *What is a trafficway?*

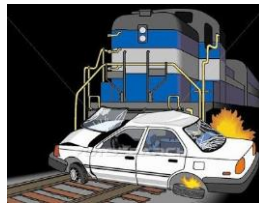
- **trafficway:** any land way open to the public as a matter of right or custom for moving persons or property from one place to another, including the roadside, shoulder, median, and travel lanes (everything between property lines)



- examples of an unstabilized situation beginning on the trafficway
- examples of incidents in which the unstabilized situation did NOT begin originate on a trafficway

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If the incident involved a **railway train in transport**, did a motor vehicle in transport become involved prior to any injury or damage involving that train?





Is it true that neither an **aircraft in transport** nor a **watercraft in transport** was involved in the incident?



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# MINNESOTA TOWARD ZERO DEATHS


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*A driver of an SUV is heading east of Shepard Rd. His wife is belted in the front right passenger seat. Suddenly, the driver suffers a fatal heart attack and the SUV swerves over the centerline, striking a sedan head-on. The driver of the sedan is killed, the driver of the SUV has died due to his heart attack, and his wife has been seriously injured.*

What injury severity is this crash?

A.) Serious injury crash  
 B.) Fatal Crash with 2 fatalities  
 C.) Fatal Crash with 1 fatality  
 D.) This is not considered a MV Traffic Crash

- Injury/Damage
- Cataclysm/Firearm
- Motor Vehicle
- In-Transport
- Unstabilized Situation
- Trafficway
- Railway Train In Transport
- Aircraft In-Transport/Watercraft In-Transport




## MINNESOTA TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

*An amateur pilot takes off in a small aircraft off from Holman field. He crashes the plane shortly after takeoff onto Highway 52, striking a pickup truck traveling on the roadway. The pilot is killed and the driver of the pickup is seriously injured.*

What injury severity is this crash?

- A.) Fatal Crash
- B.) Serious Injury Crash
- C.) PDO Crash
- D.) This is not considered a MV Traffic Crash

- Injury/Damage
- Cataclysm/Firearm
- Motor Vehicle
- In-Transport
- Unstabilized Situation
- Trafficway
- Railway Train In Transport
- Aircraft In-Transport/Watercraft In-Transport




## MINNESOTA TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

*A distracted driver fails to negotiate a curve, and runs off the roadway to the right. She enters a farm field, where she regains control of the vehicle and begins driving back toward the roadway. Suddenly, a deer jumps out in front of her vehicle (still in the farm field), and she strikes the deer, damaging her vehicle and causing herself a minor injury.*

What injury severity is this crash?

- A.) Minor injury crash
- B.) This is not considered a MV Traffic Crash

- Injury/Damage
- Cataclysm/Firearm
- Motor Vehicle
- In-Transport
- Unstabilized Situation
- Trafficway
- Railway Train In Transport
- Aircraft In-Transport/Watercraft In-Transport




## MINNESOTA TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

*A drunk driver fails to negotiate a curve and runs off the roadway to the right into a farm field. The vehicle rolls over causing damage to the vehicle and serious injury to the driver and minor injury to the front seat passenger.*

What injury severity is this crash?

A.) Serious Injury Crash  
B.) This is not considered a MV Traffic Crash  
C.) Minor Injury Crash

- Injury/Damage
- Cataclysm/Firearm
- Motor Vehicle
- In-Transport
- Unstabilized Situation
- Trafficway
- Railway Train In Transport
- Aircraft In-Transport/Watercraft In-Transport



## MINNESOTA TOWARD ZERO DEATHS


*A snow plow is in the process of plowing a county road when it strikes a pedestrian crossing the street. The pedestrian is killed, and the snow plow driver is uninjured.*

What injury severity is this crash?

A.) Fatal Crash  
B.) PDO  
C.) This is not considered a MV traffic crash

- Injury/Damage
- Cataclysm/Firearm
- Motor Vehicle
- In-Transport
- Unstabilized Situation
- Trafficway
- Railway Train In Transport
- Aircraft In-Transport/Watercraft In-Transport






## MINNESOTA TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

*A driver of a car loses control on an icy roadway, crashes through the guardrail of a bridge, and falls off the bridge into the river below. The driver sustains a minor injury in the crash, but thanks to her seatbelt, she is relatively unharmed. She manages to climb out of the window of the partially submerged vehicle, which is sinking. She begins swimming toward shore. Unfortunately, she is unable to contend with the current of the river, and she drowns.*

What injury severity is this crash?

A.) Fatal Crash  
B.) Minor Injury crash  
C.) This is not considered a MV traffic crash

- Injury/Damage
- Cataclysm/Firearm
- Motor Vehicle
- In-Transport
- Unstabilized Situation
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## MINNESOTA TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

*When I was 17 years old I was driving my parent's minivan, with my best friend in the front right passenger seat. As I was heading down Northdale blvd toward the intersection with Coon Rapids Blvd, the gas pedal began sticking. The van started accelerating and I couldn't get the pedal unstuck. Braking was not helping much, even with the emergency brake engaged. As we began to gain speed and approach the intersection, I made a decision. Abandon ship! I told my friend to jump out of the vehicle (which she did, but not before gathering up her homework to take with her), and then I intentionally jumped out of the vehicle, receiving a minor injury. The van continued down the street, through the intersection, struck a bus stop bench, and crashed into a tree in front of Mercy hospital. The van was totaled, but no one else was injured in the crash. (True story)*

What injury severity is this crash?

A.) Minor injury crash  
B.) PDO crash  
C.) This is not considered a MV traffic crash

- Injury/Damage
- Cataclysm/Firearm
- Motor Vehicle
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**15 YEARS TOWARD ZERO DEATHS** MINNESOTA TOWARD **ZERO** DEATHS

*A distraught young man is driving down a two-way, undivided roadway. In an effort to end his own life, he crosses the center line at high speed, and runs head-on into a semi truck. Both the truck driver and the young man are killed in the crash. There are no passengers in either vehicle.*

What injury severity is this crash?  
 A.) Double Fatality Crash  
 B.) Single Fatality Crash  
 C.) PDO Crash  
 D.) This is not considered a MV traffic crash

- Injury/Damage
- Cataclysm/Firearm
- Motor Vehicle
- In-Transport
- Unstabilized Situation
- Trafficway
- Railway Train In Transport
- Aircraft In-Transport/Watercraft In-Transport

**15 YEARS TOWARD ZERO DEATHS** MINNESOTA TOWARD **ZERO** DEATHS



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