

## Definitions

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

Prior to 2005, the minimum criteria for reporting motor vehicle crashes for statistical purposes in Kansas were a non-injury crash occurring on or from a public roadway with over \$500 of property damage. January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, the limit was raised to \$1,000. This affects all 2005 **Total** and Property Damage Only (**PDO**) columns in this document.

### **Crash:**

An event involving at least one motor vehicle in-transport and on a public roadway that results in death, injury, or property damage over \$1,000.

### **Aggressive/Antagonistic Driving:**

**Aggression:** an offensive action...an unprovoked attack.

**Antagonism:** actively expressed opposition or hostility.

**Examples:** tailgating (intentional), improper passing, shining bright lights, etc.

The reporting officer can record this contributing circumstance code as it applies to the driver's actions. Such actions are with the intent to display a driver's irritation towards others or about circumstances. Intimidation, fear, and threats are evidence of this action.

**Note:** This is not the same as road-rage. Road-rage is causing intentional harm to another and therefore, the harmful event would not be considered a crash.

### **Alcohol-Related Crash:**

Motor vehicle crashes where the reporting officer indicates "alcohol contributed" to the cause and / or a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is recorded. This only applies as it relates to the **driver**. For example, this would not include crashes where a "sober" driver strikes an alcohol-impaired pedestrian with their vehicle.

### **Crash Costs**

By using the methodology provided in a Technical Advisory from the Federal Highway Administration, "Motor Vehicle Crash Costs" (1994), it is possible to assign a comprehensive cost (in dollars) to each traffic crash based on the injury severities of the persons involved.

In crashes involving one or more injured persons, each person possibly injured augments the cost assigned to the crash by \$30,800; each person with a non-disabling injury augments the cost by \$58,350; each person with a disabling injury augments the cost by \$291,700; and each person fatally injured augments the cost by \$4,213,300. If all persons involved in a crash were unharmed (i.e. the crash was property damage only crash), then a cost of \$3,250 is assigned to the crash.

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## **Definitions** (cont'd)

For example, the cost assigned to a crash involving two persons with non-disabling injuries and one person with disabling injury is \$408,400 (2 times 58,350, plus 291,700). The per-person cost figures are adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index for the month of January of the year following the crash. The Technical Advisory may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/techadvs/t75702.htm> .

### **Contributing Circumstances:**

The factors which the investigating officer determines contributed to the cause of the crash.

### **Crossover:**

A paved or unpaved area between roadway lanes which allows vehicles to cross over from one direction of travel to another.

### **Fatality:**

A person (excluding a baby in the womb) who dies as the result of a motor vehicle traffic crash. (By state statute, the death must occur within 30 days of the crash date to be counted as a fatality)

### **Fatal Crash:**

A motor vehicle traffic crash which causes the death of one or more persons.

### **First Harmful Event:**

The first event (often in a series of events) involving a motor vehicle which causes death, injury, or property damage.

### **Holiday Periods:**

The holiday periods used in this book are those established by the National Safety Council. Data include crashes occurring from 6:00 p.m. the first day (excluding unknown "Time of Crash") to 12:00 midnight the last day.

### **Injury:**

Includes vehicle occupants or pedestrians receiving a severe wound, other visible injury, or complaint of pain (possible injury) as the result of a motor vehicle traffic crash. Deaths are excluded in injury statistics.

### **Injury Crash:**

A motor vehicle traffic crash which causes disabling, non-incapacitating, or possible injury to vehicle occupants or pedestrians and does not include fatalities.

### **Large/Heavy Truck:**

Trucks using more than four tires with a gross vehicle rate (GVW) of 10,001 lbs. or more and intended for commercial use. Body types include: single trucks over four tires, truck and trailer(s), or tractor-trailer(s).

## **Definitions** (cont'd)

### **Motor Vehicle:**

Any mechanically or electrically powered motorized mode of transport excluding vehicles designed specifically for rails, water, air, or personal conveyance vehicles.

### **Other Non-collision:**

An event during a crash sequence which does not involve a collision with another vehicle or object.

Examples:

- collapse of a bridge
- passenger inhalation of gas
- fire or explosion within a vehicle.

### **Overturn Crash:**

Prior to 2003:

Included are crashes where the reporting officer recorded a vehicle overturn as the “first harmful event.” Excluded are many crashes where the vehicle overturns after the “first harmful event.” Example: A vehicle strikes an embankment (1st event) and then overturns.

2003 through 2008:

Included are crashes where the reporting officer recorded a vehicle overturn as the “first harmful event” and / or a vehicle was marked overturn under vehicle damage on KDOT form 850.

2009 and beyond:

Included are crashes where the reporting officer recorded a vehicle overturn as the “first harmful event” and/or “most harmful event” / or a vehicle was marked overturn in the vehicle sequence of events.

### **PDO (Property Damage Only) Crash:**

A motor vehicle traffic crash in which damage to public or private property is greater than \$1,000 and does not incur any injuries.

### **Pedalcycle:**

A non-motorized vehicle propelled by pedaling (bicycle, tricycle, etc.)

### **Pedestrian:**

A person who is not an occupant of a motor vehicle that is in-transport. (includes pedalcyclists, riders of animals, occupants of animal-drawn vehicles, injured occupants of a vehicle not in transport (legally parked), and machine operators or passengers of a machine when such machine is being used for its intended purpose).

### **Police Pursuit Crashes:**

Involve a pursued vehicle by at least one law enforcement vehicle. These crashes do not include intentional “legal intervention” measures to stop or redirect a vehicle such as: spike strips, collisions, road blocks, etc.

## **Definitions** (cont'd)

### **Personal Conveyances:**

A personal conveyance is a device, other than a transport device, used by a pedestrian for personal mobility assistance or recreation. These devices can be motorized or human powered, but not propelled by pedaling.

Examples:

- Rideable toys
- Roller skates or inline skates
- Skateboards
- Roller blades
- Baby Carriage
- Scooters
- Toy Wagons
- Motorized rideable toys
- Motorized skateboard
- Motorized toy car
- Sidewalk scooters
- Devices for personal mobility assistance
- Segway-style devices
- Motorized/non-motorized wheelchairs
- Handicapped scooters

### **Reckless / Careless Driving:**

**Reckless:** marked by a lack of caution; rash; irresponsible; wild; negligent.

**Careless:** not taking care; unconcerned or indifferent of the consequences.

**Examples:** Excessive speed or racing, “pulling stunts” with a vehicle, disregarding traffic control devices (intentional), etc.

The reporting officer can record this contributing circumstance code as it applies to the driver’s actions. Such actions reflect a driver’s apathy towards the law and/or others.

**Note:** This is not the same as aggressive / antagonistic driving

### **Rural (or Rural Area):**

Locations with less than 5,000 inhabitants, except those classified as rural by the U.S. Census Bureau.

### **School Bus Crash:**

A crash coded with at least one of the following:

*Vehicle Body Type* = 14 School Bus

*Vehicle Use* = 03 School Bus

### **Single-Vehicle Crashes:**

A crash involving only one motor vehicle and no pedestrians.

### **Snow & Ice Crashes:**

A crash coded with at least one of the following conditions:

*On Road Surface Condition* = Snow, Slush, or Ice

*Weather* = Sleet, Snow, Freezing Rain, Sleet & fog, Snow & Wind

*On/At Road Contributing Circumstance* = Icy or Slushy; Snowpacked

*Environment Contributing Circumstance* = Sleet, Hail, or Freezing Rain; Falling Snow

## **Definitions** (cont'd)

**Speed-Related:**

A crash in which the reporting officer recorded either “too fast for conditions” or “exceeded posted speed limit” as a contributing circumstance for a driver involved.

**Type of Crash:**

The category that best describes the first harmful event.

**Urban (or Urban Area):**

All places of 5,000 or more inhabitants, and the towns, townships, and other areas classified as urban by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT):**

The estimated total number of miles driven during the year by all vehicles within the state.

**Work Zone Crash:**

A crash occurring within a construction zone or a road maintenance zone.