

# Crash Type Descriptions

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The NCDOT Traffic Safety Unit categorizes crashes according to actions of the parties involved. This is often helpful when seeking to detect patterns of crashes in a location or to prioritize locations according to the types of crashes that have been occurring in each location.

## **Lane Departure**

This category refers to crashes that involve a vehicle leaving the lane it is traveling in. This may result in the vehicle striking another vehicle traveling in the same direction or in the opposite direction, or it may involve the vehicle running off the road entirely and striking a roadside object or overturning. Specific crash types involved in this category include:

- Ran off Road Right - Vehicle runs off right side of the roadway.
- Ran off Road Left - Vehicle runs off left side of the roadway.
- Ran off Road Straight Ahead - Vehicle runs through "Y" or "T" intersection.
- Overturn/Rollover - Any event in which a motor vehicle in transport overturns for any reason.
- Fixed Object - Any collision involving a motor vehicle in transport and any object, which is fixed (not movable).
- Head On - Head on collision of motor vehicles moving in opposite directions in which initial contact is on the fronts of both vehicles.
- Sideswipe, Same Direction - The collision of motor vehicles, traveling in the same direction, in which contact usually results from attempting to pass too closely, skidding, or other side-to-side initial contact.
- Sideswipe, Opposite Direction - The collision of motor vehicles, traveling in opposite directions, in which contact usually results from attempting to pass too closely, skidding, or other side-to-side initial contact.

## **Frontal Impact**

This category refers to crashes that involve one vehicle striking another vehicle while attempting to cross paths. These crashes typically occur at intersections and involve a turning maneuver or striking at a right angle (front of one vehicle into the side of another). Specific crash types involved in this category include:

- Left Turn, Same Roadway - Collision with both vehicles traveling on same roadway prior to one or both turning left; may occur in passing maneuver or vehicles may be meeting.
- Left Turn, Different Roadways - Collision of vehicles traveling on different roadways prior to one or both turning left.
- Right Turn, Same Roadway - Collision with both vehicles traveling on the same roadway prior to one or both turning right (Occurs in passing on right at intersections, meeting of one-way road with two-way road, etc.).
- Right Turn, Different Roadways - Collision of vehicles traveling on different roadways prior to one or both turning right.

- Angle Collision - Collision most often resulting in the vehicles hitting at or near right angles, with the front of one vehicle striking the side of the other vehicle. Most often occurs at an intersection when two vehicles are going straight on intersecting roads and neither vehicle is turning.

### **Rear End**

This category refers to crashes that involve one vehicle striking the rear of another vehicle. Specific crash types involved in this category include:

- Rear End, Slow, or Stop - Rear end collision with one vehicle going at a slower speed, slowing down or stopping in traffic.
- Rear End, Turn - Rear end collision with front vehicle turning.

### **Pedestrian**

This category refers to any crash involving a motor vehicle in transport and a pedestrian.

### **Bicyclist**

This category refers to any crash involving a vehicle and a pedalcyclist, including devices known as bicycles, pedalcycles, unicycles and sidecars or trailers attached to these devices (which are moved by human power).

### **Animal**

This category refers to any crash involving a vehicle and an animal, herded or unattended.

### **Other**

This category includes crashes that do not fit into other categories. These include:

- Jackknife – Truck pulling a semi-trailer or trailers where the trailing unit(s) and the pulling vehicle rotate with respect to each other.
- Railway Train, Engine - Any collision involving a motor vehicle in transport and a railway train or railway vehicle.
- Movable Object - Any collision involving a motor vehicle in transport and any other object which is movable or moving, but not fixed.
- Parked Motor Vehicle - Any crash involving motor vehicle in transport and a motor vehicle not in transport.
- Backing Up – Collision in which one vehicle backs into another, generally stopped or parked vehicle.
- Other Collision with Vehicle
- Other Non-Collision – Any other event involving only the motor vehicle in transport, that is of a non-collision nature.