

DOT HS 600 861

**SUMMARY OF 1968- 1970  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY ACCIDENT  
INVESTIGATION REPORTS**

**VOL. 2 of 2**

**Office of Accident Investigation and  
Data Analysis Research Institute  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
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16. Abstract  In June 1971, Volume 1 of a two-volume series summarizing the causal factors, conclusions and recommendations which emanated from various in-depth accident reports was published. This first volume contained a listing of these factors according to team and case number from 448 Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Reports. These 448 cases were the first in-depth reports submitted to the NHTSA during the years 1968 to 1970 by sixteen different Multidisciplinary Teams. Volume 2 of this series is contained herein. This volume contains aggregations of all the factors listed from the individual reports in Volume 1. These aggregations are listed according to the matrix cell they are categorized under, major topic areas under these matrix cells, and the Team and Case Number of occurrence in which the particular aggregated factors appear in. Section I of this volume gives a brief background of the Teams, a description of their accident case selections, the matrix classifications, the purpose and utilization, and a discussion of what the authors consider significant trends. Section II contains the aggregated factors (2206 of them) according to matrix cell, major topic area, and the Team and case number in which they occurred.			
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## SECTION I

Background

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## Background

In June 1971, Volume 1 of a two-volume series summarizing the causal factors, conclusions and recommendations which emanated from various in-depth accident reports was published.<sup>1</sup> This first volume contained a listing of these factors according to team and case number from 448 Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation reports. These 448 cases were the first in-depth reports submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) during the years 1968 to 1970 by sixteen different Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Teams under contract to NHTSA. Except for various Contractor source changes, these multidisciplinary studies have been ongoing efforts and continue to be funded by the NHTSA. For further information on the background of these investigation teams, their make-up, and the Accident Investigation program in general at NHTSA, see Volume 1<sup>1</sup> of this series or a report entitled: "Annual Report to the Secretary on Accident Investigation and Reporting Activities - 1971."<sup>2</sup>

## Accident Case Selection

The collisions investigated by these Multidisciplinary Teams contain several built-in biases. These known biases and their justifications are listed below:

- At least one of the vehicles involved in the collisions must be of at least the last three model years from the accident date. This means that the majority of the vehicles in the accident sample are of 1966 vintage or newer (see Table 1). The NHTSA is mainly interested in the crash performance of newer vehicles, vehicles with recent safety features, and vehicles which contain many of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. It is the continuous evaluation of the performance of these new countermeasures which needs to be attained.
- The Teams are also asked to investigate crashes which are cost-effective for the expensive deployment of a team of professionals to investigate. Thus, the majority of accidents are fatals or injury-producing in order to study the injury mechanisms, contact points, causation, etc. (see Table 2). It is the saving of lives and attenuation of injury that most interests NHTSA. The Teams are asked to investigate property-damage-only accidents when at least one vehicle is damaged severely enough to require towing. These cases, of course, can provide insight as to why people were not injured in a relatively high energy collision. Only a small portion, however, of this sample are property-damage-only (see Table 2).

TABLE 1

Frequency of Vehicle Model Year Involvement

1950	1
1953	3
1954	4
1955	3
1956	6
1957	8
1958	3
1959	17
1960	22
1961	20
1962	25
1963	32
1964	36
1965	46
1966	52
1967	108
1968	155
1969	119
1970	30
Unknown	<u>42</u>

Total 732 vehicles

TABLE 2

## Type of Collision vs. Accident Severity

	Fatal	Injury Producing	Property Damage	Total
Multiple Vehicle				
Head-On	17	14	1	32
Rear-End	12	19	2	33
Angle	57	71	4	132
Other	15	19	4	38
Sub-Total	101	123	11	235
Single	108	87	18	213
Total	209	210	29	448

# PROGRAM MATRIX FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY RESEARCH

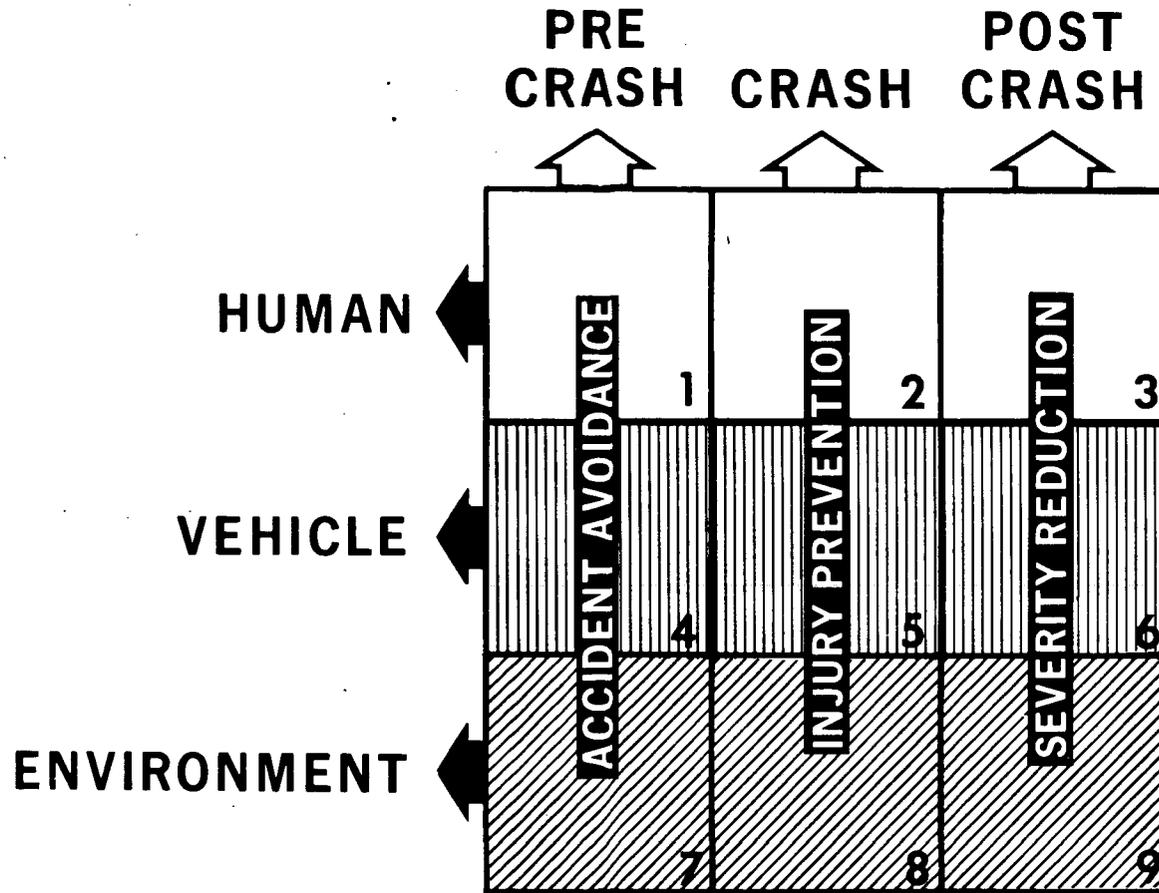


FIGURE 1

- The last known bias in the selection of these collisions is the cooperation of the participants (i.e. drivers, passengers, witnesses, police, etc.). If a team is deprived of certain information, or feels it does not have adequate information to complete the case, the case is dropped from consideration. It is felt that a complete case, with all the facts possible weighed in the causal determinations, is more cost-effective than an incomplete or partially completed case.

Given these known case selection biases, it was felt that a trend analysis of the causal factors and significant findings from the cases would be a fruitful endeavor. There are no other accident case reports known to this office with the depth of investigation applied, the multiple of professional disciplines involved in the investigations, and the amount and quality of data reported as are in these case reports.

As previously mentioned, a total of 448 cases were submitted over this three year period which were subsequently reviewed, printed, and distributed by NHTSA. The cases were summarized and any causal factors, conclusions and recommendations emanating from the reports were categorized. Volume 1 of these two inter-dependent volumes contains a listing of all these factors by team and case number (with a preface to each case containing the collision configuration, vehicles involved, and the accident severity). Each of the factors listed is classified according to the Program Matrix for Highway Safety,<sup>3</sup> briefly described in the next section.

#### Matrix Classification

Multidisciplinary investigations include a careful analysis of the basic elements of a collision, i.e. (1) human factors, (2) vehicle factors, and (3) environmental factors, in each phase of the traffic system failure, i.e. (1) pre-crash, (2) crash, and (3) post-crash. The combination of these elements and phases logically results into a two-way matrix (see Figure 1).

This matrix was developed by NHTSA to categorize specific areas of study. Each causal factor, conclusion and recommendation contained in Volume 1 of this series, and the aggregations contained in this volume, are classified according to this 9-cell matrix. The matrix system is employed in this sense for the following reasons:

- to conveniently categorize causal factors, conclusions, findings, and recommendations by researchers;
- as a guide for researchers and highway safety users by providing an overview of a particular collision report and as an aid for locating findings of their specific interests;

- to permit aggregating frequencies of occurrence of significant factors in each cell, thus, providing a gross indication of where the problem areas and trends are emerging.

For detailed definitions of the elements and phases of collisions, and specific definitions of each of the 9 cells of the matrix, see Section I of Volume 1<sup>1</sup> or a paper entitled: "Program Matrix for Highway Safety Research."<sup>3</sup>

### Volume 2 Purpose and Utilization

Volume 2 contains aggregations of all the factors listed from the individual cases in Volume 1. This volume lists the aggregations according to the matrix cell they are categorized under, major topic areas under those matrix cells, and the Team and Case number of occurrence in which the particular aggregated factors appeared in. The frequencies of occurrence of each factor are purposely not listed to discourage percentage calculations and possible misinterpretation. Volume 1 originally stated that the aggregations in Volume 2 would be listed according to "frequency of occurrence." Because of bias in the selection of accidents for investigation, the frequency of occurrence of accident factors has no statistical meaning and could mislead many users. Consequently, the frequencies are not listed.

The basic use of Volume 2 is to provide reference cases to users interested in certain factors. For example, a user interested in all the cases involving alcohol as a causal factor would find these cases listed under:

- Cell 1, Human Pre-Crash
- Conditions or States (of driver)

The cases involving alcohol then appear under two factors:

- Driver intoxicated (BAC  $\geq$  .10% or stated as such)
- Driver had been drinking (BAC  $<$  .10% or stated as such)

The user can then refer back to Volume 1 for the type of collision, the severity, the other causal factors, etc. in each one of these cases. If that information is not enough, he can request the Summary or Full case report from NHTSA. Volumes 1 and 2 are, therefore, inter-dependent and should be used in conjunction with each other.

Although the frequencies are purposely not tallied and listed in this volume, there are certainly some obvious trends in the findings and factors which need to be discussed. Since the authors of this report are closest to the types of cases selected, the techniques used to investigate and report these accidents, and the relative credibility of the findings, it is appropriate to discuss what we think are significant trends.

## Discussion of Trends

Before the discussion of specific trends, it is appropriate to present three other tables which provide more information on the 448 case sample. Table 3 gives a breakdown of the number of cases by team. It can be seen that the sample is dominated by the original seven teams funded in 1968: Baylor, Boston, Georgia Tech, Maryland, Rochester, Tulane, and UCLA. The cases from these seven sources total 326.

Table 4 gives a more detailed breakdown of the collision types in the sample. These are listed in decreasing order of frequency of occurrence. It can be readily seen that the sample is over-represented with single vehicle, run-off-the-road into an object types (pole, tree, bridge abutment, etc.), the majority of which resulted in fatal injuries to an occupant. The "odd" configurations (i.e. front-side-rollover, etc.) gives one an idea of the number and type of multiple impacts in this sample.

For those interested in the vehicle makes involved in these accidents, Table 5 gives a frequency count of this. As expected, the leading involvees included Chevrolets and Fords, as exposure would predict. There doesn't appear to be any "make" involvement which deviates significantly from the exposure figures, although a statistical test was not performed. To our knowledge, the teams did not key on any specific "make" of vehicle. American made vehicles were probably favored, however.

Given this information, the following frequency aggregations are appropriate for discussion:

### HUMAN FACTORS

1

In the pre-crash, accident initiation area (cell 1), there were several interesting findings. These trends certainly warrant further study:

- Of the cases where a direct information processing failure was reported on the part of the driver, the following proportions were noted:
  - (1) 23% of these failures were due to perception/comprehension failures. That is, the driver either did not see the danger signal, or the danger signal was in his field of view but he did not comprehend it as such.
  - (2) 52% of the failures were decision failures, as expected. These were basically judgment errors on the part of the driver after he detected the danger signal.
  - (3) 25% of the remaining failures were action errors, which is somewhat higher than one would expect. These included physical action errors such as oversteering and panic

TABLE 3

Total Cases by Team

1) Baylor College of Medicine	27
2) Boston University	44
3) Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory	25
4) Georgia Institute of Technology	73
5) Indiana University	9
6) Maryland Medical-Legal Foundation	60
7) Miami University (Fla.)	7
8) University of New Mexico	8
9) Ohio State University	7
10) Research Triangle Institute	14
11) University of Rochester	36
12) Southwest Research Institute	31
13) Stanford Research Institute	10
14) Tulane University	30
15) University of California at Los Angeles	56
16) University of Utah	<u>11</u>
Total	448

TABLE 4

## Detailed Breakdown of Collision Types

Car-Object	181
Front-Side	85
Front-Rear	44
Head-On	32
Roll-over	25
Unclassified	24
Side-Side	10
Side-Front	8
Car-Fire	6
Front-Side-Rollover	3
Head-On-Rearend	3
Side-Side-Object	3
Front-Side-Front	2
Front-Side-Object	2
Rearend-Head-On	2
Side-Rear	2
Side-Side-Rollover	2
Front-Side-Head-On	1
Front-Side-Front	1
Front-Side-Side	1
Front-Rear-Rear-Object	1
Head-On-Head-On-Head-On	1
Rear-Side-Rear	1

Side-Front-Rollover-Fire	1
Side-Front-Side	1
Side-Head-On-Head-On	1
Side-Side-Front	1
Side-Side-Head-On	1
Side-Front-Rear-Side	1
Side-Side-Side-Object	1
Side-Side-Rear-Object-Rear-Rear	<u>1</u>
Total	448

TABLE 5

## Frequency of Vehicle Make Involvement

Passenger Cars

Chevrolet	169	Mercedes	1
Ford	120	Cortina	1
Pontiac	62	Porsche	1
Dodge	47	MGB	1
Oldsmobile	47	Alfa Romeo	1
Plymouth	27	Renault	1
Volkswagen	26	Fiat	1
Buick	21	MG Roadster	1
Mercury	19	BMW	1
Cadillac	13	Datsun	1
Rambler	13	Unknown	<u>6</u>
Chrysler	10	Total	610
Opel	4		
Toyota	3		
Triumph	3		
Lincoln	3		
Jaguar	2		
Morris	1		
Studebaker	1		
Volvo	1		
DeSoto	1		
Austin-Healy	1		

Trucks

Chevrolet	23
Ford	16
GMC	7
International	7
White	6
Dodge	5
Mack	4
Freuhaul Trailer	1
Great Dane Van Trailer	1
Kenworth Tractor Trailer	1
Brockway	1
Peterbuilt	1
Unknown	<u>8</u>

Total 81

Other Vehicles

Motorcycles	4
Train	3
Trailer	2
Bulldozer	<u>1</u>

Total 10

Objects (moving)

Tire	1
Horse	<u>1</u>

Total 2

Buses

Ford	2
Dodge	2
Greyhound	1
International	1
Volkswagen	1
Chevrolet	1
GM Public Trans.	1
Challenger	1
Scenic Cruiser	1
Crown Coach	1
GMC Coach	1
Unknown	<u>1</u>

Total 14

Pedestrians

Total 15

Grand Total 732

after danger had been detected and the proper decision to act had been made. Many of these drivers who performed action errors were inexperienced, under the influence of alcohol, or fatigued.

- There were a plethora of reasons for driver nonperformances or errors, as one can see from the vast listing of factors in this human area.
  - (1) 32 cases involved total physical incapacitation on the part of the driver. In 20 cases, the driver fell asleep and in 12 cases he experienced some medical incapacitation (e.g. heart attack, seizure, stroke, etc.). This 2-3% medical incapacitation proportion is probably low when looking at fatal accidents in lieu of recent studies involving autopsy findings.
  - (2) The predominant condition or state affecting the driver's performance was overwhelmingly the presence of alcohol. 88 cases involved drivers who were intoxicated (i.e. their BAC  $\geq$  .10% or the Team stated such if a test wasn't taken), while 68 more cases involved drivers who had been drinking (i.e. BAC  $<$  .10% or stated as such by the Team). 156 cases involving alcohol as a contributing factor out of 448 cases certainly cannot be overlooked in any sample. Over 100 of these alcohol-involved cases were fatal accidents.
  - (3) Under experience categories, driving inexperience definitely contributed to driver error in 25 cases; vehicle unfamiliarity contributed to 23 cases; and road or area unfamiliarity contributed to 11 cases.
  - (4) In 83 cases, the reasons drivers did not detect or comprehend danger signals in time to avoid the collision were due to driver inattention (preoccupation) or driver distraction (inside or outside the vehicle).
  - (5) Risk-taking behaviors, next to driver conditions or states, were the second most frequent reasons for driver failure. 147 cases involved drivers speeding or going too fast for conditions, many of these in conjunction with alcohol. Another 77 cases involved some improper maneuver by a driver (e.g. signal or sign violations; unsafe U-turns; lane changes, etc.).
  - (6) Finally, 6 cases included strong evidence of intentional self-destruction (suicide). Five different teams reported these six cases so it was not a biased case selection of any one team.

2

In the crash phase (cell 2), there was one human behavior which affected injury causation significantly - the failure of occupants to use available restraints. This public apathy, of course, is well known.

- 120 cases involved at least one driver and/or passenger who did not use an available restraint system and the team reported that the individual occupant would not have been injured as severely, or his life would have been saved, had he been wearing the restraints. The "and" is important here. The 120/448 proportion does not indicate the number of cases involving occupants who merely did not wear available restraints (that was much higher), but the number who definitely would have sustained less severe injuries had they been wearing them.
- In 34 cases, the teams reported that at least one occupant was wearing an available restraint which reduced the potential injury severity of the accident. These, of course, are considered positive factors (indicated by an asterisk (\*) in the aggregations) which mitigated injuries.

3

In most of the earlier investigations, the teams did not direct their investigatory activities on the post-crash phase involving human factors (cell 3). There is, consequently, a dearth of factors aggregated in this area. The findings in this phase, therefore, are nowhere near true proportions. Given this, the following factors were dominant:

- 12 cases involved extrication and/or treatment problems to injured occupants. An additional 5 cases involved reported emergency medical service problems (e.g. excessive ambulance arrival times; inadequate dispatch procedures; etc.)

It should be added that the multidisciplinary teams at present investigating accidents do thoroughly investigate the post-crash phase and are now consistently reporting such factors.

#### VEHICLE FACTORS

4

Vehicle pre-crash factors (cell 4) were defined as defects, maladjustments, or degradations that either contributed to the initiation of the collision or affected its configuration or severity. The aggregations of these factors in this sample must be interpreted with extra precaution. Percentages appear to be attached to these factors more often than any other type. This is due

perhaps, to lack of adequately controlled studies or lack of adequate expertise to make such determinations in controlled studies. In any case, percentages should not be applied to this sample. Some of the factors reported in this area were gross failures primarily causing the collision, some were conditions which only contributed to the collision, while others were conditions or degradations which contributed to the manner in which the collision occurred or its severity. A few were even conditions present which the team did not directly associate with the collision initiation. An excellent controlled study, with more than adequately trained expertise performing the investigations, will be released in the latter part of 1972<sup>4</sup> reporting realistic proportions and specific areas of defects on this topic.

In lieu of this, the following trends can be discussed:

- Brake systems were reported as contributory in some manner in 27 cases. These, along with tire failures or poor tire conditions (51 cases), make up the bulk of reported vehicle pre-crash factors.
- General improper or inadequate maintenance resulting in a degraded vehicle condition was the dominant reason for these vehicle factors. 17 cases directly reported maintenance problems as the reason for an overall degraded vehicle condition.

5

In the crash phase (cell 5), the vehicle factors which contributed to injury severity were legion, and the most frequently reported when compared to human and environmental crash factors. Before the negative factors are discussed, a word is in order on some of the more significant positive factors (\*) concerning recent vehicle countermeasures which mitigated injuries.

- The energy absorbing steering column performed adequately in 27 reported cases mitigating potentially serious injury. An additional 19 cases reported the force-distributing instrument panel reduced or eliminated injuries to front seat occupants.
- The new HPR windshield was credited with reducing injuries to the head and face in 9 cases.
- Other reported positive factors included head restraints preventing neck injuries and the adequate performance of stronger seat back latches.

On the negative side, the following factors were among the most frequently reported:

- The installation of seat belts and/or shoulder harnesses would have mitigated injuries (if worn) in 32 cases.
- The doors were reported to have flown open upon impact in 17 cases increasing the potential for injury.
- There was seat track separation or slippage in 21 cases, again increasing injury potential.
- 33 cases reported the lack of resistance to side impact intrusion as a definite injury severity factor. An additional 19 cases noted lack of resistance to roof collapse as an injury severity factor.
- The hood latch either released and elevated, contacted, and/or penetrated the windshield in 22 cases compromising the energy absorbing effect of the windshield and, in many cases, causing more severe injury.

6

In the post-crash area (cell 6), there were two major areas of concern: fuel leakage, and fire. The significant factors in these two areas were:

- 9 cases of fuel tank rupture with resultant fire
- 2 cases of fuel leakage from fuel line with resultant fire
- 7 cases of fuel tank rupture with no fire

In other miscellaneous post-crash areas pertaining to the vehicle, the doors jammed preventing immediate exit by the occupants in 9 cases, and the occupants legs were caught beneath the dashboard in 3 cases making extrication before a fire ensued impossible.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

7

Environmental pre-crash factors (cell 7), which contribute to the initiation of collisions, have been categorized into four major areas:

- (1) Traffic control inadequacies
- (2) Poor roadway geometry
- (3) Roadway maintenance
- (4) Ambient conditions

- Under traffic control inadequacies, signs (or lack of them) were the leading factor which either misled or did not provide proper information to the driver. 34 cases involved inadequate signing. 11 cases involved inadequate signal operation.
- 31 cases involved inadequate sight-distance for the driver under "poor roadway geometry." Inadequate shoulders contributing to loss of control were present in 14 cases.
- 34 cases involved inadequate roadway maintenance as a problem, with 8 of those cases involving inadequate snow removal procedures. Those 8 cases involved teams in the three cities with the most snowfall - Buffalo, Rochester, and Salt Lake City.
- By far the most frequent factor of occurrence in the environmental area was the presence and contribution of wet, slippery pavement. This ambient condition was present in 70 cases and either initiated loss of control by the driver, or increased the severity of the collision.

8

In the crash area (cell 8), there was one outstanding factor which definitely contributed to the severity of the collisions. This was the presence of an unprotected fixed object (poles, trees, etc.) adjacent and close to the roadway edge. This factor increased the injury severity of the collisions in 44 cases.

- Breakaway supports were found to be effective in 3 cases and not effective in 2 cases.
- The need for guard rails and barriers, or the placement and improvement of such, was present in 39 cases.

9

Finally, in the post-crash phase (cell 9), there were several positive factors (\*) concerning traffic control, law enforcement, etc.

- 7 cases reported excellent traffic control and/or clean-up operations.
- 10 cases reported the implementation of some highway recommendation made by the team due to their investigation.

On the negative side, 5 cases reported that subsequent highway repairs (due to the collision) were either delayed a considerable time, or that the repairs did not remove the hazard contributing to the collision.

The above frequencies of occurrence can probably best be used by referring to the cases they each appear in (from Volume 1) and determining what "other" factors are associated with each occurrence. Mini-correlations and bivariate frequencies can then be studied.

### Research Indicators

As a gross indicator as to where, and in what phase of the accidents, the most relevant factors and conclusions are being reported, Table 6 was constructed. This table shows the tally of factors which were reported in each of the 9 cells of the safety matrix. As can be readily seen, the Human area dominates, particularly in the Pre-Crash phase, while factors reported in the Crash phase are mainly concerned with the Vehicle. Post-Crash factors are sparse for reasons explained earlier and no one element dominates there.

Other items of interest might be where the most recommendations are made and where the most positive factors (\*) are occurring. Table 7 was constructed to grossly indicate such. By definition, the other factors missing from this table are accident causal factors (cells 1, 4, 7), injury causal factors (cells 2, 5, 8) and negative post-crash factors (cells 3, 6, 9). An example of interpreting this table would be saying that 55 of the 211 factors reported in cell 2 (Human - Crash) were positive factors (\*).

TABLE 6

Total Cell Frequencies

	Pre-Crash	Crash	Post-Crash	
Human	877	211	84	1172
Vehicle	182	331	75	588
Environment	301	107	38	446
	1360	649	197	2206

TABLE 7

Positive Factors and Recommendations per Matrix Cell

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Positive Factors	12	55	29	0	65	10	1	8	17
Recommendations	52	6	23	0	0	20	14	9	3

## REFERENCES

1. Office of Accident Investigation and Data Analysis, "Summary of 1968-1970 Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Reports," Volume 1 of 2, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT-HS-600 596, June 1971.
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3. James C. Fell and Scott N. Lee, "Program Matrix for Highway Safety Research," National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT-HS-820 094, December 1970.
4. John R. Treat and Kent B. Joscelyn, "A Study to Determine the Relationship Between Vehicle Defects and Crashes," Institute for Research in Public Safety, Indiana University, performed under contract DOT-HS-034-2-263, Interim Report - Methodology, Publication No. DOT-HS-800 661, November 1971 (Analysis Report to be released October 1972).

SECTION II

Frequency Aggregations

Matrix Cell  
(\* indicates  
positive  
factor)

Explanation of Factor

Team and Case #  
of Occurrence

1

HUMAN PRE-CRASH FACTORS

Information Processing Failures or  
Nonperformances

● Perception/Comprehension

Driver false assumption

Baylor 10  
CAL 4, 17, 19, 21, 21  
Ga. Tech 54, 74  
Miami 697001  
New Mexico 4

Driver lost control of vehicle

Baylor 2  
Boston 69-8, 69-12, 69-17  
CAL 7, 13  
Indiana 69-4, 69-8  
Maryland 68-21  
New Mexico 2  
Rochester DOT 2, DOT 8

● Decision

Driver improper evasive action

Boston 69-11, 69-20,  
69-27  
CAL 8, 11, 15, 21, 78  
Ga. Tech 7, 76  
Miami 697002, 697022  
Maryland 68-8, 68-11  
New Mexico 6, 9, Special  
Report 2  
SwRI 7005, 7043  
Stanford 06, 12  
UCLA 944

Driver misjudgement

Boston 68-17, 69-16,  
69-21  
CAL 3, 9, 14, 16, 17, 17,  
18  
Ga. Tech 43, 54  
Indiana 69-8  
Maryland 68-4, 68-15,  
68-49, Special  
Report 2  
RTI 5  
Rochester DOT 1  
Tulane 69-12  
UCLA 802  
Utah 3-69

Driver inadequate communication  
of intentions

Rochester DOT 6  
SwRI 7017

Driver did not have headlights  
turned on

Maryland 68-26  
Miami 697022

● Action

Driver overcompensation/oversteering Boston 69-17, 69-29,  
69-30  
CAL 73, 5  
Ga. Tech 75  
Maryland 68-24, Special  
Report 1  
Miami 105  
Rochester DOT 3, DOT 9  
RAI 36  
SwRI 6906  
Tulane 69-4, 69-5,  
69-10, 11  
UCLA 704, 798  
Utah 3-69

Driver panicked

Boston 69-15  
Maryland 68-11, 68-33,  
68-48

Reasons for Nonperformances

● Physical or Physiological Failures

Driver fell asleep

Baylor 2-ME-13  
Boston 68-7  
Ga. Tech 46, 48  
Maryland 68-36, 68-42,  
69-2, 69-9,  
69-17, 69-23  
RTI 10  
Rochester DOT 4, RAI 19,  
RAI 25, RAI 39  
UCLA 787, 895, 965, 1055  
Utah 7-69

Medical incapacitation  
(i.e., heart attack, seizure,  
etc.)

Baylor 2-ME-17  
Boston 68-8, 69-8  
CAL 5, 8  
Ga. Tech 61  
Indiana 70-8  
Maryland 69-10, 69-46  
Rochester RAI 28  
SwRI 7023  
UCLA 1188

● Conditions or States

Driver intoxicated (BAC  $\geq$  .10%  
or stated as such)

Baylor 2, 9, 2-ME-3  
Boston 68-4, 68-5, 68-6,  
68-10, 68-13,  
68-17, 69-1,  
69-3, 69-5, 69-9,  
69-10, 69-11,  
69-16, 69-27,  
69-29, 69-30  
Ga. Tech 8, 17  
Indiana 69-2, 69-3,  
70-9  
Maryland 68-6, 68-9,  
68-14, 68-20,  
68-24, 68-25,  
68-32, 68-36,  
68-40, 68-45,  
68-51, 68-52,  
Special Report  
#1, 69-2, 69-3,  
69-6, 69-10,  
69-14, 69-17,  
69-23, 69-59,  
70-9  
Miami 697004  
Ohio 4  
RTI 8, 9, 17  
Rochester DOT 2, DOT 7,  
DOT 8, DOT 9,  
RAI 39, RAI 42,  
RAI 45  
SwRI 6904, 6912, 7008,  
7011, 7023, 7026,  
7027, 7037  
Tulane 01, 02, 10, 69-2,  
69-5, 69-7, 69-19  
UCLA 567, 704, 845, 896,  
945, 1000, 1003,  
1003, 1023, 1146,  
1172  
Utah 1-69, 2-69, 12-70  
13-70

Driver had been drinking  
(BAC  $<$  .10% or stated as such)

Baylor 3, 7, 2-ME-4,  
2-ME-15, 2-ME-19  
Boston 68-7, 69-18,  
69-2, 69-19,  
69-4, 69-20,  
69-21, 69-27,  
69-30  
CAL 21, 59, 83

Ga. Tech 18, 20, 22,  
26, 34, 36,  
37, 41, 42,  
52, 55, 50,  
69

Indiana 69-4, 69-6,  
Maryland 68-8, 68-13,  
68-17, 68-26,  
68-39, 68-39,  
68-50, 68-28

New Mexico 8

Ohio 7

RTI 3

Rochester DOT 4, RAI 12  
RAI 14, RAI 16,  
RAI 31, RAI 40

SwRI 6906, 6908, 6913,  
7004, 7017, 7029

Tulane 69-3, 69-10, 11  
69-15, 69-20,  
12B1670

UCLA 734, 787, 843, 895,  
957, 965, 1079,  
1182

Utah 6-69

#### Driver fatigued

Baylor 7, 9, 2-ME-6

Boston 69-2

CAL 83

Ga. Tech 5, 34, 55, 69,  
75

Indiana 69-4

Maryland 68-34, 69-3

Miami 697002

Rochester RAI 19,  
RAI 25

RTI 1

SwRI 6901, 6906, 6908,  
6913, 6914, 6916,  
7004, 7008, 7011

Tulane 69-19, 69-20

UCLA 704, 813, 1090,  
1177

Utah 2-69

#### Driver emotionally upset

Baylor 9

Boston 69-9, 69-15

CAL 10

Ga. Tech 23, 55

Maryland 68-6

New Mexico 9

	Miami 697002, 697004 RTI 9 Rochester DOT 2 SwRI 6914, 7011, 7025 UCLA 1182 Utah 2-69, 9-69
Driver physiological condition played contributing role	Boston 68-14, 68-1, 69-30, 69-3 CAL 1 Ga. Tech 55 Maryland 68-15A UCLA 1003
Driver drugged	Baylor 2-ME-2 Boston 68-1, 69-3 Indiana 69-1 Maryland 69-2, 68-34 New Mexico 9
Driver slowed reactions	Maryland 68-17, 68-43 Ohio State 7
Driver pressured or in hurry	CAL 9, 20 Miami 697004
● <u>Experience or Exposure</u>	
Driver inexperience	Baylor 6 Boston 69-7, 69-17, 69-20, 69-21 CAL 11, 16 Ga. Tech 56 Maryland 68-6, 68-21, 68-46 Ohio 2 Rochester RAI 13, RAI 20, RAI 23, RAI 39, RAI 60 SwRI 6905, 6908, 7003, 7030, 7030 Tulane 69-4 UCLA 798, 802
Driver unfamiliarity with the vehicle	Baylor 6, 2-ME-3, 2-ME-9 Boston 69-30 CAL 5 Ga. Tech 5, 30, 52 Indiana 69-4 New Mexico 6

	SwRI 6901, 7003, 7011, 7026, 7030, 7030, 7043
	Stanford 07
	Tulane 06, 12B1670
	UCLA 835
	Utah 2-69, 5-69
Driver had poor driving record	Boston 68-3, 69-3, 69-9, 69-18, 69-29, 69-30
	Ga. Tech 53
	Indiana 69-2, 69-4
	Maryland 68-14, 68-24
	RTI 6
	SwRI 7032
	UCLA 798, 1120, 1146, 1177
	Utah 1-69

Driver unfamiliarity with roadway or area	Baylor 2-ME-8
	Boston 69-4
	CAL 9
	Ga. Tech 24
	Maryland 68-22
	Miami 697008
	RTI 4, 6, 13
	SwRI 7004
	Tulane 12B1670

Unlicensed driver	Boston 69-3
	Maryland 68-6, 68-25
	SwRI 7026

Driver overfamiliarity with roadway (complacent)	RTI 2
	Tulane 69-9

Driver overconfident with driving skills	SwRI 7003, 7005
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Driver did not benefit from driver education course	SwRI 7005
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Driver did not complete training course	New Mexico 7
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● Conflicting Behaviors or Preoccupation

Driver inattention	Baylor 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 2-ME-5, 2-ME-6, 2-ME-8, 2-ME-12, 2-ME-8
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Boston 68-3, 68-16,  
69-21  
CAL 9, 10, 11, 15, 4,  
10, 17  
Ga. Tech 19, 45, 57,  
65, 66  
Indiana 69-8, 70-9  
Maryland 68-10, 68-13,  
68-48, 68-49,  
Special Report 2,  
Special Report 2  
Miami 69, 70, 22, 105  
New Mexico 1, 3, 3, 4,  
6, 7, 8, 8  
Ohio 2  
RTI 1, 3, 6, 11  
Rochester DOT 7, RAI 18  
RAI 29-30  
RAI 40, RAI 51-  
53, RAI 59  
SwRI 6901, 6915, 7005,  
7009, 7030  
Tulane 05, 07, 69-15  
UCLA 811, 843, 844, 852  
Utah 1-69, 4-69

Driver distracted

Baylor 6, 9, 2-ME-1,  
2-ME-5  
**CAL 73**  
Ohio State 10  
Rochester DOT 5, RAI 10,  
RAI 20  
SwRI 6915, 7003, 7006  
Tulane 05  
UCLA 845, 909  
Utah 5-69, 6-69

● Risk-Taking Behavior

Driver speeding or too fast for  
conditions

Baylor 2, 3, 7, 2-ME-1,  
2-ME-2, 2-ME-6,  
2-ME-14, 2-ME-15,  
Boston 68-10, 68-16,  
68-17, 69-5,  
69-6, 69-7,  
69-9, 69-10,  
69-12, 69-15,  
69-17, 69-18,  
69-19, 69-20,  
69-27, 69-29  
69-30, 68-20,

Boston 69-3, 69-4,  
69-6, 69-10,  
69-17, 69-18,  
69-30  
CAL 20, 5, 6, 14  
Ga. Tech 9, 11, 20, 27,  
29, 32, 37, 38,  
40, 44, 51, 52,  
57, 60, 63, 67,  
39, Special  
Report, 72  
Indiana 69-4, 69-6, 69-3  
Maryland 68-1, 68-6,  
68-14, 68-15,  
68-24, 68-34,  
68-35, 68-46,  
Special Report 1,  
69-1, 69-7,  
68-2, 68-4,  
68-9, 68-17,  
68-21, 68-22,  
68-28, 68-32,  
69-14, 68-36,  
70-9  
Miami 697001, 697002,  
105  
New Mexico 7, 9  
Ohio 4  
RTI 9, 13  
Rochester DOT 2, DOT 9,  
RAI 11, RAI 14,  
RAI 16, RAI 23,  
RAI 38, RAI 38,  
RAI 39, RAI 45  
SwRI 6901, 6903, 6904,  
6905, 6911, 6913,  
6914, 6916, 7003,  
7004, 7005, 7006,  
7007, 7008, 7014,  
7017, 7023, 7025,  
7026, 7027, 7029,  
7032, 7037, 7043  
Tulane 05, 06, 69-2,  
69-10, 11, 69-13,  
14, 69-15, 69-16,  
69-17, 18, 69-22  
UCLA 798, 804, 813, 906,  
978, 984, 1120, 1183  
Utah 2-69, 3-69, 5-69,  
6-69, 9-69, 11-70,  
12-70

Driver improper maneuver  
(i.e., signal or sign violations,  
unsafe U-turns, lane changes,  
etc.)

Baylor 3, 7, 8, 9,  
2-ME-4, 2-ME-9,  
2-ME-10, 2-ME-16  
Boston 68-16, 69-4,  
69-9, 69-13,  
69-21, 69-27  
CAL 6, 11, 14, 17, 19,  
19, 74  
Ga. Tech 3, 4, 14, 15,  
19, 24, 27, 33,  
35, 37, 40, 44,  
49, 50, 63, 74,  
76, 74, 75  
Indiana 69-6  
Maryland 68-39, 68-43,  
68-51, 68-52,  
69-5,  
Miami 697001  
New Mexico 3, 3, 4  
Ohio 3, 5, 8, 10  
RTI 2  
Rochester RAI 20, RAI 24,  
RAI 31, RAI 51-53  
SwRI 6908, 7029, 6901,  
6903, 7007  
Tulane 09, 69-8, 69-17, 18  
UCLA 919, 974, 1188, 667,  
945, 1075, 1079,  
1172, Baker Bus  
Utah 1-69, 11-70

Driver personality structure  
found to be conducive to unsafe  
driving practices and high risk-  
taking behavior

Baylor 9  
Boston 69-19  
Maryland 69-46  
Miami 697002, 697025  
SwRI 6903, 6903, 6904,  
6911, 7014, 7017,  
7023  
Tulane 12B1670  
UCLA 1003, 1023, 1143,  
1183

Erratic driving behavior

Baylor 2-ME-10  
Maryland 68-1, 68-13,  
68-25, 68-35,  
Special Report 1  
Miami 697002  
New Mexico 2  
Ohio 5  
Tulane 69-22, 69-24  
UCLA 804, 1172

Driver aware of defective vehicle prior to accident      Indiana 69-0  
RTI 7  
SwRI 7037

Driver violation of license restriction      Boston 69-16

Occupants pushing stalled vehicle against traffic      Ga. Tech 53

● Intentional Self-Destruction

Evidence of driver or pedestrian suicide      Baylor 2-ME-2  
Maryland 68-20, 69-4  
Rochester RAI 37  
Tulane 69-1  
UCLA 1055

Positive Factors (\*)

\*Driver used correct maneuver to control vehicle      CAL 17, 20  
SwRI 6911, 7007, 7014,  
7023, 7029  
Stanford 06, 07, 13  
UCLA 1289

\*Lap belt enabled driver to steer to avoid head-on collision      RTI 1

Recommendations

Recommendation:  
Driver education improvements needed      Ga. Tech 63, 44, 74  
Miami 105  
Rochester RAI 19, RAI 25  
SwRI 7008, 7037, 6901,  
6908, 6913, 6915,  
7005, 7008, 7025,  
7027, 7030, 7007  
UCLA 1090  
Utah 12-70

Recommendation:  
Special studies to evaluate efficiency of re-educating problem driver      SwRI 6903, 6905, 6905,  
6906, 6908, 6911,  
6915, 6916, 7003,  
7005, 7006, 7027

Recommendation:

Closer medical supervision of  
driver licensing controls

Boston 68-11, 69-8  
Ga. Tech 13, 16, 35, 46,  
61

Rochester RAI 28  
SwRI 6912  
UCLA 1182

Recommendation:

Continued efforts to control  
drinking drivers is needed

Rochester RAI 42  
SwRI 6906, 6912, 7011,  
7026

Recommendation:

Safety programs should be  
emphasized to companies employing  
professional drivers or salesmen

SwRI 6915, 6916, 7014,  
7027

Pedestrian Factors

Information Failures or Nonperformances

Pedestrian - improper decision

CAL 18  
Maryland 68-15A, 68-26,  
68-40

Condition or State

Pedestrian intoxicated

Maryland 68-47, 69-4,  
68-8, 68-15A,  
68-44

Pedestrian - slowed reaction

Maryland 68-40

Pedestrian was in senile,  
confused state

Maryland 68-3

Pedestrian may have been frightened

CAL 18

Conflicting Behaviors or Preoccupation

Pedestrian inattention

Maryland 68-8, 68-15,  
68-49, 69-13

Risk-Taking Behavior

Pedestrian walked into traffic

Maryland 68-7, 68-31

Pedestrian standing in slow lane  
of traffic

Maryland 68-47

Recommendations

Recommendation:

Improved pedestrian education

UCLA 931

Matrix Cell  
(\* indicates  
positive  
factor)

Explanation of Factor

Team and Case #  
of Occurrence

2

HUMAN CRASH FACTORS

● Negligent Behavior

Driver and/or passenger not using  
available restraint systems;  
probably would have mitigated  
injuries if they had been worn

Baylor 2-ME-1, 2-ME-3,  
2-ME-4, 2-ME-8,  
2-ME-9, 2-ME-16  
Boston 68-5, 68-13,  
68-16, 69-1,  
69-5, 69-6,  
69-10, 69-12,  
69-13, 69-15,  
69-16, 69-19,  
69-20, 69-29,  
69-31  
CAL 4, 7, 12, 73, 74, 83  
Ga. Tech 3, 7, 24, 37,  
46, 47, 48,  
55, 56, 72, 76  
Indiana 69-1, 69-2,  
69-3, 69-4,  
69-6, 69-8,  
70-8, 70-9  
Maryland 68-10, 68-24,  
68-25, 68-35,  
68-38, 68-42,  
Special Report 1,  
69-6, 69-9,  
69-46, 69-59,  
70-9  
Miami 697001, 697002,  
697022, 105  
New Mexico 2, 4, 6, 8,  
8, 9, 1  
RTI 6, 10, 11, 13, 17  
Rochester DOT 1, DOT 7,  
DOT 8, RAI 10,  
RAI 19, RAI 23,  
RAI 25, RAI 29-  
30, RAI 31  
SwRI 6901, 6906, 6908,  
6912, 6913, 7004,  
7005, 7011, 7027,  
7029, 7032, 7037  
Stanford 09, 12  
Tulane 69-6, 69-7, 69-10,  
69-11, 69-12,  
69-16, 69-20,  
69-24

UCLA 704, 787, 804, 895,  
906, 1023, 1055,  
1090, 1172, 1182,  
1183  
Utah 4-69, 6-69, 9-69,  
11-70, 12-70

Driver and/or passengers would  
not have been ejected had they  
been using their restraint system.

RTI 2, 9  
Rochester 51-53  
SwRI 6905, 7003  
Utah 3-69, 5-69

Head restraints not adjusted  
properly

Boston 69-28  
New Mexico 6

Driver left van truck doors open

Ga. Tech 74

● Improper Behavior

Improperly adjusted seat-belt

Boston 68-9, 69-18  
Rochester RAI 28

Helmet worn was inadequate and  
non-standard

Rochester RAI 21

Driver improper avoidance behavior  
after initial impact

Rochester RAI 38

● Condition Affecting Severity

Previous medical condition  
contributed to injury severity

Ga. Tech 65  
Miami 697022  
UCLA 1182, 1188

Occupant position increased  
injury potential

CAL 3  
New Mexico 1  
Tulane 69-13, 14, 07  
UCLA 811

● Pertinent Facts

Restraints would not have  
mitigated injuries

Boston 69-28, 69-30,  
69-19  
Miami 697025

● Positive Factors (\*)

\* Driver and/or passengers wearing  
available restraints; probably  
mitigated injuries

Baylor 2-ME-19  
Boston 69-10  
CAL 3, 19  
Ga. Tech 51, 74  
Indiana 69-1, 70-8

	New Mexico 2
	Ohio State 2
	RTI 1, 3, 5, 6, 14
	Rochester DOT 4, RAI 20
	SwRI 6903, 6911, 7004, 7007, 7008, 7009, 7017, 7023, 7026, 7043
	Stanford 07, 28
	Tulane 03
	UCLA 802, 853, 1143, 1188
*Occupant action during impact reduced injury severity	CAL 4, 10, 17, 74 Ga. Tech 62 Miami 697008 New Mexico 4 RTI 4
*Occupant position in seat mitigated injuries	CAL 3, 22 Indiana 69-8, 70-9 RTI 4, 6, 10
*Motorcycle helmet prevented serious or fatal injuries	Rochester RAI 16, RAI 35 SwRI 7030
*Non-use of seat-belt probably prevented injury	RTI 13
*Passenger left vehicle enabling her to avoid injury	RTI 8
*Ejection lessened injuries	Indiana 69-1
● <u>Pedestrian Involvement</u>	
Pedestrian clothing reduced injury severity	CAL 18
● <u>Recommendations</u>	
Recommendation: Pregnant females need instruction on proper techniques of wearing restraints	UCLA 834 SwRI 7032
Recommendation: Education on the need to restrain young children is needed	Indiana 69-3 UCLA 567, 987

Recommendation:

Recommend the dangers of driving  
and use of safety belts be  
advertised to the public similar  
to the anti-smoking campaign

Boston 69-7

Matrix Cell  
(\* indicates  
positive  
factor)

3

Explanation of Factor

Team and Case #  
of Occurrence

HUMAN POST-CRASH FACTORS

● Emergency Medical Service Problems

Ambulance arrival time excessive	RTI 11 SwRI 6906, 6908
Two ambulances dispatched; inadequate dispatch procedures	CAL 3
Ambulance attendant clean-up was poor	SwRI 7029

● Extrication Problems

Occupant extrication complicated by lack of adequate equipment	Boston 69-28, 69-30 SwRI 6904, 7005
Occupant injuries increased during extrication	Indiana 69-4 UCLA 798
Occupant could not exit vehicle - drowned	Miami 105
Extrication power tool ignited fuel causing fire	SwRI 6913
Victim extricated by passersby several hours later	Miami 105
Occupant disoriented hindering egress	Miami 105

● Treatment Problems

Alcoholism caused complications and contributed to death	Tulane 69-5
Fatal ity occurred due to surgical misadventure rather than injuries sustained in collision	UCLA 1172
Injured party moved by witnesses	Utah 5-69
Occupant refused medical treatment against physician's advice	SwRI 6913

Driver anticoagulant medication made suppression of hemorrhage difficult New Mexico 9

Driver not wearing bracelet or device to warn of unusual medical history New Mexico 9

X-rays failed to reveal serious fatal fracture of cervical spine Boston 69-28

● Investigation Hindrances

Hit and run driver fled the scene after collision SwRI 7009

No witnesses available although many saw accident Boston 69-13

Driver refused to give statement on advice of counsel Boston 69-13

● Miscellaneous Factors

Driver failed to render assistance or first aid to occupants of V2 Miami 697008, 697022

Driver might have survived had she evacuated her vehicle rather than trying to move it Ga. Tech Special Report

First person on-scene did not use his fire extinguisher Indiana 69-2

Driver opened hood without fire equipment Stanford 47B

Driver and passenger remained in vehicle - made no attempt to warn oncoming traffic Maryland 68-50

Other drivers would not stop to aid or help move vehicle Stanford 0081

● Positive Factors (\*)

\* Witnesses offered assistance Boston 69-30  
Miami 697022, 697025  
New Mexico 4  
RTI 9  
SwRI 7030  
Stanford 47, 12  
Utah 12-70

Matrix Cell  
(\* indicates  
positive  
factor)

3

Explanation of Factor

Team and Case #  
of Occurrence

HUMAN POST-CRASH FACTORS

● Emergency Medical Service Problems

Ambulance arrival time excessive RTI 11  
SwRI 6906, 6908

Two ambulances dispatched;  
inadequate dispatch procedures CAL 3

Ambulance attendant clean-up was  
poor SwRI 7029

● Extrication Problems

Occupant extrication complicated  
by lack of adequate equipment Boston 69-28, 69-30  
SwRI 6904, 7005

Occupant injuries increased during  
extrication Indiana 69-4  
UCLA 798

Occupant could not exit vehicle -  
drowned Miami 105

Extrication power tool ignited fuel  
causing fire SwRI 6913

Victim extricated by passersby  
several hours later Miami 105

Occupant disoriented hindering  
egress Miami 105

● Treatment Problems

Alcoholism caused complications  
and contributed to death Tulane 69-5

Fatality occurred due to surgical  
misadventure rather than injuries  
sustained in collision UCLA 1172

Injured party moved by witnesses Utah 5-69

Occupant refused medical treatment  
against physician's advice SwRI 6913

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Driver failed to render assistance or first aid to occupants of V2 Miami 697008, 697022

Driver might have survived had she evacuated her vehicle rather than trying to move it Ga. Tech Special Report

First person on-scene did not use his fire extinguisher Indiana 69-2

Driver opened hood without fire equipment Stanford 47B

Driver 1 and passenger remained in vehicle - made no attempt to warn oncoming traffic Maryland 68-50

Other drivers would not stop to aid or help move vehicle Stanford 0081

● Positive Factors (\*)

\* Witnesses offered assistance Boston 69-30  
Miami 697022, 697025  
New Mexico 4  
RTI 9  
SwRI 7030  
Stanford 47, 12  
Utah 12-70

- \* Excellent first aid and extrication procedures used by rescuers CAL 1, 5  
SwRI 6916  
Utah 11-70
- \* Calmness of occupant prevented panic of other passengers CAL 1, 11  
Maryland Special Report #2  
Rochester RAI 36
- \* Occupants able to exit unassisted Stanford 07, 09  
UCLA 944
- \* Driver moved vehicle off roadway Stanford 47, 47A  
Utah 12-70
- \* Several witnesses removed occupants from hazardous area SwRI 7025  
Utah 6-69
- \* Driver assisted passenger from burning vehicle SwRI 7009
- \* Driver cleared passengers from vehicle Stanford 47
- \* Driver prevented hood from opening until fire dept. arrived Stanford 47
- \* Baby ejected - rescued because of crying Miami 697008

● Recommendations

Recommendation:

There should be statutory requirements for obtaining BAL on surviving drivers when injury or fatality resulted from the crash Boston 69-31, 69-21,  
69-18, 69-12,  
69-18, 69-21,  
69-31  
Ga. Tech 17, 20, 22,  
36, 41, 42, 55

Recommendation:

Autopsies should be performed on all fatal accident victims Ga. Tech 13  
UCLA 984

Recommendation:

Emergency exit briefings needed for bus trips Baylor 4  
UCLA 977

Recommendation:

Need for coordinated community planning EMS Ga. Tech 54

Recommendation:

Public must be made aware of calling police in emergency situations before action is taken

UCLA 931

Recommendation:

Reexamination of surviving drivers involved in accidents is recommended

Miami 697001

Recommendation:

Public education on hazards of spectators at accident scene

SwRI 6913

Recommendation:

Companies should have penalties for repeated employee accidents or violations

SwRI 6915

Matrix Cell  
(\* indicates  
positive  
factor)

Explanation of Factor

Team and Case #  
of Occurrence



VEHICLE PRE-CRASH FACTORS

Vehicle defects, maladjustments, or degradations which either caused or contributed to the severity of the accident

● Brake System

Directional Instability

Boston 69-2  
Ga. Tech 25  
Indiana 70-3  
Miami 697001  
Rochester RAI 51-53

Hydraulic Failure

Ga. Tech 58, 28, 7  
RTI 7  
Stanford 6, 10, 36, 50,  
51, 91  
Tulane 69-6

Improper Maintenance

Boston 69-10  
Stanford 81

Loss of Effectiveness

Ga. Tech 72  
Stanford 75  
Tulane 07  
UCLA 853

Mechanical Failure or Degradation  
(lining, shoe, drum, adjuster)

Ga. Tech 6, 11  
New Mexico 36  
Stanford 94, 54

● Tires

Dynamic Failure

CAL 5  
Ga. Tech 12, 21  
Maryland 69-6, 70-9  
Stanford 103  
Tulane 06  
UCLA 704

Insufficient Tread Depth

Boston 69-2, 69-4, 69-13  
Ga. Tech 3, 6, 11, 29,  
10, 19, 30, 31,  
25  
Indiana 69-3

	Maryland 68-33, 68-46, 68-21, 69-20, 69-29
	Rochester 13
	SwRI 6905, 6906, 6911, 6913, 7009, 7032
	Stanford 44
Low or Different Tire Pressures	Boston 68-10, 69-20
	Ga. Tech 45
	Maryland 68-45
	SwRI 7003, 7007, 7008, 7014, 7043
Varying Carcass Construction or Size	Boston 68-10, 69-18, 69-20
	Ga. Tech 21
	Rochester 23
	UCLA 704
	Utah 9-69
Miscellaneous	Boston 68-20
● <u>Front Suspension</u>	Boston 69-19, 69-21
	SwRI 7005
	Stanford 13, 14, 33
● <u>Rear Suspension</u>	Stanford 46, 52, 57, 64
● <u>Steering System</u>	Boston 69-27
	Ga. Tech 6, 65
	SwRI 7005
	Stanford 09, 28, 45, 53, 70
● <u>Wheels</u>	
Failure	Stanford 34, 40, 41, 43, 58, 49, 62, 66, 67, 73, 82, 83, 92, 93
● <u>Internal View Obstruction</u>	Miami 697022
	Rochester 18
	Tulane 6912
● <u>Handling and Stability</u>	Boston 69-18, 69-10, 69-29
	Ga. Tech 72, 43
	Indiana 69-1
	Rochester 51-53
	UCLA 835, 1188

- Visibility Systems
  - Baylor 2-ME-9
  - Maryland 68-44, 68-50
  - New Mexico 1, 4, 9
  - UCLA 843
  
- Driver Controls, Displays
  - Boston 69-14
  - CAL 78
  - New Mexico 6
  - SwRI 7026
  - Stanford 07
  - UCLA 852
  
- Vehicle Overloaded
  - CAL 5
  - Ga. Tech 72
  - Maryland 68-2
  - SwRI 6915, 7027
  
- Modification of Vehicle with After-Market Equipment Degraded Performance
  - Boston 68-16, 69-7, 69-10
  - Ga. Tech 30
  - Ohio 5
  
- Fuel System
  - Carb Leaks with Resultant Fire
    - Stanford 47, 63
    - UCLA 1289
  
  - Fuel Tank Leak with Resultant Fire
    - UCLA 1212
  
- Accelerator Linkage
  - Baylor 2-ME-12
  - Boston 68-20, 69-11
  - Maryland 68-11
  - Rochester 10
  - Stanford 12
  - UCLA 1090
  
- Exhaust System
  - Boston 69-14, 68-5
  - Maryland 69-1
  - SwRI 7043
  - Stanford 37
  
- Man-Machine Incompatibility
  - CAL 22
  - Indiana 69-4
  - Miami 697025
  
- General Improper or Inadequate Maintenance Resulting in Degraded Vehicle Condition
  - Boston 68-5, 68-12, 69-14
  - CAL 16
  - Ga. Tech 47, 53, 58

New Mexico 2  
RTI 7  
SwRI 6901, 7009, 7025,  
7037  
Stanford 13  
UCLA 977, 1212  
Utah 5-69

Matrix Cell  
(\* indicates  
positive  
factor)

Explanation of Factor

Team and Case #  
of Occurrence

5

VEHICLE CRASH FACTORS

● Energy Absorbing Steering Assembly

\* Energy absorbing steering column

Baylor 2-ME-2,  
Final Report  
Boston 69-11, 69-18,  
69-28, 69-31  
CAL 7  
Ga Tech 17, 35, 39,  
26, 63  
Indiana 69-8, 70-9  
Maryland 68-38, 69-2,  
69-9  
Miami 697008  
Rochester DOT 4, RAI 25,  
RAI 42  
Tulane 08, 69-19  
UCLA 896, 1000  
Utah 11-70, 13-70

Poor performance

Boston 69-28, 69-31  
CAL 3  
Ga Tech 51  
UCLA 1090, 957  
Utah 6-69

Fatal or severe injury due to  
impact with non-EA column

Indiana 70-9  
New Mexico 9  
SwRI 6906, 6912, 6914  
Stanford 12  
Tulane 02

\* Energy-managing instrument panel  
mitigated injury

Baylor Final Report  
Ga Tech 63  
Indiana 69-8  
RTI 2, 3, 5  
Rochester DOT 3  
SwRI 6901, 7003, 7006,  
7008  
Tulane 08, 69-16, 12B1670  
UCLA 787, 895, 945, 1023,  
1188

● Windshield

\* HPR windshield mitigated injury

Baylor Final Report  
Boston 69-11  
CAL 7  
Ga Tech 26  
RTI 2  
Rochester 2  
SwRI 7011  
Tulane 69-16  
Utah 11-70

Total bond separation

Boston 69-29  
CAL 78  
New Mexico 1  
UCLA 802, 811, 1079

Occupant penetration

Boston 69-9  
Ga Tech 76  
Indiana 70-8, 70-9  
Tulane 69-7

Hood elevated and moved rearward;  
contacted; or penetrated windshield

Boston 69-10, 69-31  
Ga Tech 53, 27, 41, 46  
Rochester RAI 14  
Tulane 08  
UCLA 822, 945, 1003  
Utah 7-69

● Restraint System

Installation of seat belt and/or  
shoulder harness would have  
mitigated injuries (if worn)

Baylor 4  
Boston 69-2, 69-5,  
69-9, 69-18,  
69-20, 69-21  
Maryland 68-1, 68-2,  
68-6, 68-13,  
68-17, 68-21,  
68-22, 68-28,  
68-32, 68-36,  
68-46, 69-14  
Miami 697022, 697002  
Rochester DOT 4, DOT 6,  
RAI 36  
SwRI 6912, 7027  
Stanford 06  
Tulane 69-2, 69-5,  
69-13, 14  
UCLA 1172

Produced injury	Indiana 69-8 Rochester RAI 40
Attachment or webbing failure	Boston 69-20 Indiana 69-8 Rochester RAI 13
Child restraint	Miami 697008
Ejection increased injuries	Boston 69-15, 69-19, 69-20 Ga Tech 50 Maryland 68-1, 69-17 Rochester RAI 14, RAI 39, RAI 45, RAI 51- 53 SwRI 7029 Tulane 06, 69-2, 69-10, 11, 69-13, 14 UCLA 1172

● Doors flew open upon impact

Boston 69-9, 69-19,  
69-21  
Maryland 68-1, 69-46  
New Mexico 1  
Rochester RAI 18  
SwRI 6903, 7029  
Tulane 02, 04  
UCLA 567, 734, 896,  
919, 1003  
Utah 1-69

● Vehicle Side Interiors Produced Injury

Side glass	UCLA 974
Vent wing	Miami 697022
Door	Baylor 2-ME-8 Indiana 69-3 UCLA 1023, 1075, 1172, 1183
A-pillar	Ga Tech 34, 41

● Vehicle Front Interior Produced Injury

Dashboard and roof area	Baylor 2-ME-10, 2-ME-14 Miami 697022 Rochester DOT 8, RAI 29, 30, 31 SwRI 7014, 7043 UCLA 974, 1146
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Protrusion in instrument panel	CAL 4 Ga Tech 76 Indiana 70-9 Stanford 09 UCLA 896
Parcel shelf	UCLA 919
Gear shift lever	Ga Tech 56 Indiana 69-4 UCLA 1183

● Seats

Track separation or slippage	Baylor 2-ME-15, 2-ME-19 Boston 69-10, 69-11, 69-18, 69-21, 69-27  CAL 4 Indiana 69-6, 70-8, 70-9 New Mexico 8 RTI 10 SwRI 7027, 7043 UCLA 667, 945, 1075, 1079, 1172, 1183
Seatback produced injury	Ga Tech 53
Seatback latch failure	Boston 69-19 Miami 697002 Rochester RAI 10 UCLA 1055, 1172
* Good performance of seatback latches	Boston 69-11, 69-28, 69-29 Rochester RAI 31

● Head Restraints

* Prevented or mitigated whiplash injury	RTI 3 SwRI 7027, 7032 UCLA 978
Released during collision	Utah 12-70
Would have prevented whiplash injury if installed	Baylor 2-ME-12 Rochester DOT 5

● Lack of Resistance to Side Impact  
Intrusion

Boston 68-18, 68-13,  
69-20, 69-5,  
69-6, 69-27,  
69-15  
Maryland Special Report 2,  
70-9  
Miami 697022  
Ohio 7  
Rochester RAI 13,  
RAI 23, DOT 6,  
RAI 18,31  
SwRI 6911, 6915  
Tulane 05, 09, 69-8,  
69-9  
UCLA 567, 834, 852,  
919, 974, 978,  
1075, 1120, 1172,  
1183  
Utah 2-69

\* ● Side Guard Door Beams Reduced Intrusion  
into Passenger Compartment

CAL 9  
RTI 7

● Lack of Resistance to Roof Collapse

Boston 68-18  
Ga Tech 23  
Maryland Special Report 2  
New Mexico 2, 3, 7  
RTI 9  
Rochester RAI 36  
SwRI 7026  
Tulane 10  
UCLA 734, 802, 1177,  
957, 984, 1003,  
1031, 1143, 1177

● Engine Intrusion into Passenger  
Compartment

Boston 69-1  
Ga Tech 27

● Override-Underride Resulted in  
Excessive Penetration

Boston 69-31  
New Mexico 4  
SwRI 6915  
Stanford 81  
Tulane 04, 07, 08, 69-3,  
69-8, 69-15  
UCLA 843, 1003, 1075,  
1183

- Hood Latch Released and Hood Elevated
  - Boston 69-10, 69-15  
69-28, 69-28,  
69-31
  - UCLA 1079, 1143, 1172,  
1182, 1183
  
- Fuel System
  - Leakage
    - SwRI 7009
    - UCLA 835, 1146
  
  - Tank separation from vehicle
    - Boston 69-2
    - Miami 697008
    - SwRI 6915
    - UCLA 1146
  
- Internal Loose Objects
  - Boston 69-19
  - Maryland 68-45
  - UCLA 977, 1003
  
- Inadequate Design of Spare Tire Mount
  - Boston 69-31
  - Ga Tech 67
  - Indiana 70-9
  - Maryland 70-9
  - SwRI 7004
  - UCLA 1079
  
- Trailer Hitch Failure
  - UCLA 835, 906
  
- Truck Cabs
  - Cab latch failure
    - Rochester RAI 51-53
  
  - Inadequate structural integrity
    - SwRI 6916

Matric Cell  
(\* indicates  
positive  
factor)

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Explanation of Factor

Team and Case #  
of Occurrence

VEHICLE POST-CRASH FACTORS

● Fuel Leakage

Fuel tank ruptured and fire  
occurred

Boston 68-2  
Indiana 69-2  
Rochester 39, 51-53  
SwRI 7009  
Tulane 69-6, 69-24  
UCLA 804, 822

Fuel tank ruptured, no fire

Rochester RAI 10, 13  
UCLA 835, 843, 936,  
987, 1079

Fuel leakage from fuel line,  
fire occurred

Stanford 47B  
UCLA 1120

Fuel leakage from fuel line,  
no fire

Utah 6-69

Fuel from carburetor ignited  
from spark or hot surface

Stanford 47, 47A  
SwRI 7025

● Other Fire Hazard, Occurrence

Flammable insulation on wire

Stanford 47B

Fiberglass tunnel in passenger  
compartment allowed fire to enter

UCLA 1120

Ether believed to be source of  
tractor-trailer fire

Ga Tech 50

Transfer pump carrying flammable  
liquid malfunctioned requiring  
a third vehicle

SwRI 6916

\*Fire wall contained fire allowing  
time for escape

Stanford 47

● Fire Prevention

\*Fire prevented by fire department,  
rescue personnel

Boston 69-28  
Cornell 4  
Miami 697002  
SwRI 7009

\*Fire extinguished

Boston 69-30  
SwRI 7009

● Occupant Egress, Extrication

Doors jammed preventing immediate  
exit by occupants

Boston 69-30  
Stanford 12  
SwRI 7032  
UCLA 1079, 937, 1000,  
1055, 1143, 1177

Occupant's legs caught beneath  
dashboard making extrication  
before fire impossible

Tulane 69-6  
UCLA 1120, 1172

Emergency doors failed during  
impact

UCLA 796, 977

Power windows inoperable  
preventing egress

Miami 105

\*Emergency egress areas were  
available for use in bus

Baylor 4  
Rochester RAI 36

● Vehicle Removal

Vehicle damaged during removal

Miami 105

Vehicle removal delayed

SwRI 7009, 7027

\*Vehicle removed quickly by wrecker

Utah 1-69

● Broken Radiator Hose Burned Driver SwRI 7043

● Recommendations

Should be a firewall between trunk  
and passenger compartments

New Mexico 4

Emergency first aid equipment on buses should be accessible and in good condition	UCLA 977
Buses should carry emergency equipment to deal with severe trauma	Baylor 4
Safety reflectors carried by trucks need re-evaluation	SwRI 6914
Trucks hauling hazardous materials should have a sign displaying such	Ga Tech 72
Police investigators should carry fire extinguishers	Ga Tech 59
Use of bladder type lines for fuel tank to prevent fire	Rochester RAI 39, RAI 51-53
Fuel line and tank placed in protective area to reduce rupture and intrusion	Baylor 2-ME-12 Rochester RAI 13 Tulane 69-6 UCLA 843, 936, 944, 987, 1079, Baker Bus
Standard to limit burn rate of combustible materials in vehicle interior	Ga Tech 59 New Mexico 4 UCLA 1289

Matrix Cell  
(\* indicates  
positive  
factor)



Explanation of Factor

Team and Case #  
of Occurrence

ENVIRONMENT - PRE-CRASH FACTORS

● Traffic Control Inadequacy

Signal Operation

Baylor 2ME5, 2ME10,  
10, 4  
CAL 9, 20  
Georgia 32, 54  
Maryland 68-11  
Miami 697002  
Rochester RAI 51-53

Signs

Baylor 2ME7, 2ME19  
Boston 68-13, 69-6,  
69-30, 68-18,  
69-11  
CAL 16  
Indiana 63-3  
Maryland 69-59  
Miami 697022, 697008  
Rochester 29-30, RAI 18,  
DOT 3, RAI 10,  
RAI 14  
RTI 2, 5, 17  
SwRI 6904, 6914, 6912,  
7006  
Tulane 69-20, 12B1670,  
69-1718  
UCLA 844, 845, 984, 1003,  
1120, 895  
Utah 1-69

Markings

Boston 69-21  
CAL 3, 83  
Maryland 69-59  
New Mexico 8  
SwRI 7007  
Utah 1-69, 6-69  
UCLA 895

Roadway Construction

Georgia 32  
Maryland 69-46, 70-9  
Rochester 10  
Stanford 06

Parking

Boston 68-1  
Georgia 64  
Miami 697002  
New Mexico 3  
Rochester 9, 18  
Tulane 69-3

● Poor Roadway Geometry

Sight-distance

Baylor 5  
Boston 69-28, 69-11,  
69-15, 69-30  
CAL 1, 20, 21  
Georgia 76  
Indiana 69-1, 70-8,  
69-6  
Miami 697008  
Ohio 3, 11, 10  
Rochester 18, 35, 60  
RTI 2, 7, 11, 13  
SwRI 6908, 7004, 6915,  
7030  
UCLA 852, 1003, 829  
Utah 11-70

Superelevation

CAL 16  
SwRI 6911

Shoulders

Boston 68-1, 68-5  
CAL 8, 13, 14  
Georgia 37  
Indiana 70-8  
Maryland 69-46  
Miami 105  
Rochester 3  
RTI 1  
SwRI 6904, 6916  
Utah 6-69

Traveled-way

Boston 69-31, 69-5  
CAL 18  
Georgia 20, 41, 51,  
67, 39  
Maryland 68-36, 69-6  
New Mexico 2\*, 7  
RTI 14  
Rochester 11, 12, 16, 21  
SwRI 6911, 7005, 7009,  
7011, 7017, 7026  
UCLA 1188  
Utah 3-69

● Maintenance

Roadway

Boston 68-11, 69-4,  
69-12, 69-15,  
69-18  
CAL 11, 6, 14, 7  
Georgia 45  
Indiana 69-6, 69-3  
Miami 697004  
New Mexico 2  
Rochester DOT 3  
RTI 8  
SwRI 7004, 7008, 6904,  
6903, 6916, 6901,  
7014, 7029  
Tulane 06  
Utah 1-69

Snow Removal

CAL 6, 14, 7, 21  
Rochester 1, 2, 3  
Utah 9-69

● Ambience

Wet, Slippery Pavement

Baylor 9, 2-ME-16  
Boston 69-9, 69-2, 69-3,  
69-6, 69-7  
CAL 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12,  
13, 14, 15, 17, 19,  
22, 83  
Georgia 2, 6, 10, 11,  
15, 29, 31, 49,  
67, 76  
Indiana 69-4, 69-8, 69-6  
Maryland 68-2, 68-4,  
68-17, 68-21,  
68-33, 68-46,  
69-59  
Miami 697001, 105  
Ohio 10, 4, 7  
RTI 1  
Rochester DOT 1, DOT 2,  
DOT 3, DOT 5,  
RAI 13, RAI 36  
SwRI 6901, 6903, 6911,  
6912, 7006, 7009,  
7014, 7017, 7027,  
7029  
Tulane 69-13, 14, 6917,  
18, 6922  
UCLA 906, 937  
Utah 9-69

Glare - Vision

CAL 83  
Indiana 70-9  
Maryland Special Report 2  
Miami 697008  
Rochester 21, 35  
SwRI 6914

Roadway Illumination

Maryland 68-44, 68-49  
Miami 697022  
New Mexico 9  
Tulane 69-20  
UCLA 1090

Adverse Weather Conditions

Baylor 2-ME-16  
Boston 69-12, 69-13,  
69-20  
CAL 1, 19  
Maryland 68-21, 68-47,  
69-13  
Miami 697022  
Rochester 3

Other Traffic Induced Evasive  
Maneuver - Environmental  
Overload

Baylor 2-ME-6  
CAL 78, 17, 18  
Georgia 75  
Maryland 68-25  
New Mexico 7  
Rochester RAI 10, RAI 11,  
RAI 12, RAI 59,  
RAI 60  
Stanford 06  
SwRI 6905, 6912  
Tulane 69-10, 11  
UCLA 822, 853

● Pedestrians

Maryland 68-44, 68-3,  
68-26, 68-44

● Animal in Roadway

Indiana 69-8  
New Mexico 9  
Rochester DOT 5, DOT 9

Recommendations

Barrier-type gates needed at  
railroad crossings

RTI 8  
UCLA 852

Standardization of roadside signs

SwRI 6904

Left turns should be prohibited in  
high speed rural roads

Georgia 50  
SwRI 6915

Median should have mountable type curb to provide easier access	SwRI 7008
Conduct public information campaign on new roadway features	UCLA 1172
Long-term detour warrants good engineering practice	Georgia Special Report
Provide crossover for emergency vehicles	Maryland 69-5
Upgrade the design features of the roads	Georgia 20, 39, 41, 51 New Mexico 7

Matrix Cell  
(\* indicates  
positive factor)

Explanation of Factor

Team and Case #  
of Occurrence

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ENVIRONMENT - CRASH FACTORS

● Roadside Structures

Fixed object adjacent to roadway

Boston 69-4  
Georgia 14, 21, 39, 57,  
61, 63, 46, 76  
Indiana 69-2, 69-3, 69-4  
Miami 105, 697001  
New Mexico 3\*  
Ohio 5  
Rochester 8, 16, 19, 21,  
29-30  
RTI 1  
Stanford 28, 09  
SwRI 6906, 6916, 7011,  
6911, 7006, 6901,  
6903, 6908, 7025  
Tulane 69-5  
UCLA 704, 895, 957, 1000,  
1055, 1090, 1120,  
1146, 1177  
Utah 7-69, 13-70

Effectiveness of breakaway supports

Stanford 28\*  
SwRI 6901, 7023\*, 7025  
UCLA 1055\*

Guardrails - barriers

Boston 68-11, 69-19,  
69-3, 69-15,  
69-18  
Georgia 6, 25, 29, 34,  
40, 66, 75  
Maryland 69-59, 68-34  
Miami 105, 697004, 697008  
New Mexico 7  
Rochester 37, 39  
RTI 14  
Stanford 09  
SwRI 6911, 7043  
Tulane 12B1760  
UCLA 567, 734, 802, 822,  
845, 965, 977, 1075,  
734, 1079, 1143\*,  
1146  
Utah 1-69, 6-69, 13-70

Bridge rail	SwRI 6904
Gable chain link fence	Rochester 37
Deep flood channel - ditches	Miami 697008 New Mexico 7
Pavement irregularities - shoulders	Miami 697004 New Mexico 2*
Flat side-slope enabled driver to maintain control, and roadside clearance reduced injury severity	New Mexico 9* SwRI 7003*

Recommendations:

Underground utilities would reduce hazards	Miami 697025 UCLA 914
Bridge rail-ends should be flared away from pavement	UCLA 977
Lower cable needed on guard rail to prevent underride	UCLA 1143, 1031
Breakaway utility poles needed	Georgia 46 Utah 2-69
Open canals need shielding to prevent water involvement	Miami 105 Tulane 01

Matrix Cell  
 (\* indicates  
 positive  
 factor)

Explanation of Factor

Team and Case #  
 of Occurrence



ENVIRONMENT - POST-CRASH

● State Highway Department

\*Implementation of Multidisciplinary  
 Accident Investigation Team  
 recommendations

Georgia 75\*  
 RTI 17\*  
 SwRI 7009\*, 7004\*  
 Tulane 69-4\*  
 UCLA 829\*, 852\*, 1079,\*  
 1146\*  
 Utah 1-69\*

Highway repairs were delayed

Maryland 70-9  
 SwRI 6908, 7017

Highway repairs did not remove  
 hazards

Miami 697008  
 UCLA 1000

● Law Enforcement

Post-accident traffic control,  
 investigation

Miami 697001, 697022  
 Stanford 28  
 SwRI 7005\*, 6904, 7032  
 Utah 1-69\*, 6-69\*

Alcohol-drug user testing

SwRI 7011, 7037  
 Utah 6-69

Clean-up operation

CAL 5\* Georgia 60  
 SwRI 6913, 6914, 6916\*, 7032\*

Past traffic violations not  
 recorded

Indiana 69-4  
 SwRI 7004

Assistance to injured

Miami 697001

Recommendations:

Training of police in evaluating  
 on-scene evidence is needed

Boston 69-28, 69-24

Rescue and removal services should  
 be arranged by police in heavy  
 demand situations

SwRI 7009