2023 Fall Issue

The DISPATCH

PennDOT Crash Newsletter - News you can use!

What's New?

2024 Data Standard

The crash report will be updated to collect non-motorist crashes differently. At times, there has been confusion from some departments on the difference between a non-motorist, pedestrian, and pedestrian conveyance. Not only that, but some data field values currently do also not make a lot of sense for these non-motorists. We understand change is hard, but an overhaul has long been overdue. This new information will be standard on January 1, 2024, although your crash report entry product change date will vary.

What is a <u>non-motorist</u>?

- Pedestrians, Pedestrian Conveyances, and Non-Motorized units (Bicycles, Horse and Buggy, etc.) will now be entered using the new <u>UNIT TYPE</u> of Non-Motorist.

Several new fields will be used to collect data specific to Non-Motorist Units, many replacing fields more applicable to motor vehicles. The fields you are using for Motor Vehicles will remain unchanged.

- Non-Motorist Type, which includes:
  - Pedestrian, Bicycle, Other Pedalcycle, Horse and Buggy, Wheelchair, Skateboard, Scooters, Self-Balancing Board, etc.
- Powered?
  - Was the Non-Motorist unit an electric or gasoline powered conveyance?
  - This is for bicycles, wheelchairs, scooters, self-balancing boards and the like.
- Non-Motorist Movement (Crossing the road, travelling along or on the road, stopped etc.)
- Non-Motorist Position (Crossing Position, Travel Lane position (bike lanes etc.), or position along or off the roadway.)
- Non-Motorist Factor(s) (What was the non-motorist doing that may have contributed to the crash, like Pedestrian Action?)
- Non-Motorist Distraction (Not distracted, electronic device, other distraction or unknown if distracted.)
- Non-Motorist Safety Equipment (including Helmet and Protective Pads)
- Lighting? (bicycle headlight, buggy lighting, flashlight etc.)
- Reflectors/Reflective Wear (bicycle reflectors, buggy reflector, reflective wear)
- In Intersection? (For units crossing the street, was it at an intersection?)
- In Crosswalk? (Crossing within a crosswalk?)
- Crossing Traffic Control Device? (crossing signal, sign, or crossing guard)
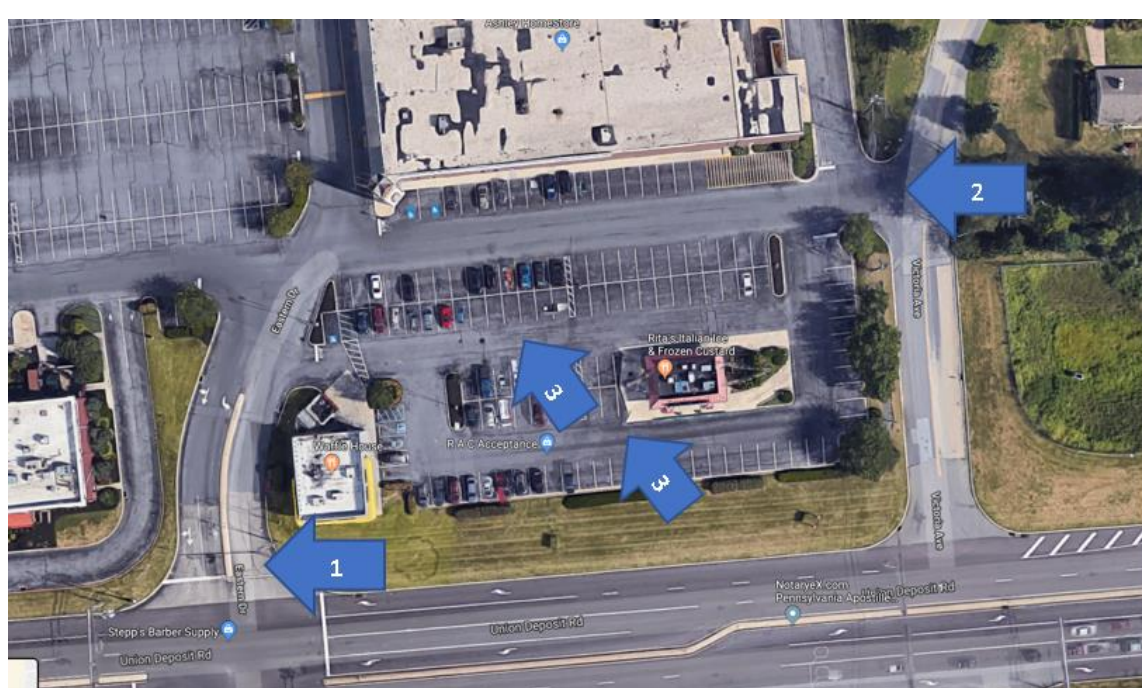
Harmful Events and Factors

- Non-Motorists will not have harmful events. Their event will be tracked by the striking/struck unit.
- Pedestrian Action will no longer be collected and will be replaced with Non-Motorist Factor(s).

Pedestrian and Bicycle data, and Pedestrian Action will no longer be collected. The data in those old fields will be collected as Non-Motorist data.
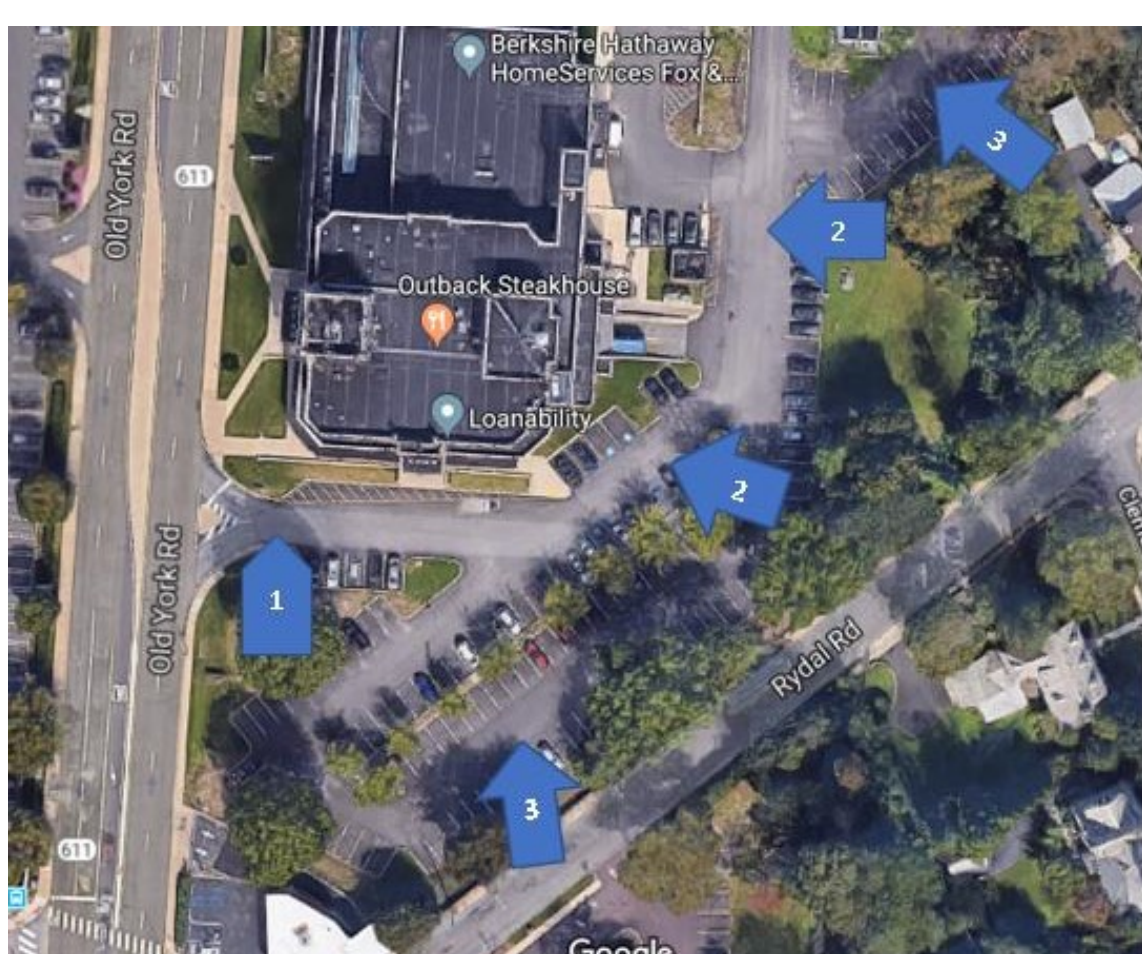
Working Together

Private Property/Parking Lot Crashes

The key to determining what is reportable and non-reportable in a potential private property or parking lot crash is the travelway. Regardless, if the crash occurred in a shopping center/mall parking lot, convenience store parking lot, school or college campus, housing developments, etc., if the roadway meets the definition of a travelway it is a reportable crash.

Shopping Center/Mall

1. Travelway that allows traffic into and out of the mall from the main roadway and connects to other travelways within the mall. The fact that the travelway has its own street name, does not change the fact that this is still a private property travelway and must be coded as the same - This is reportable

2. Travelway entering off the main roadway of Victoria Avenue - This is reportable

3. Parking stall area - This is non-reportable

Business Complex

1. Travelway that allows traffic into and out of the businesses from main roadway - This is reportable

2. Although there are parked vehicles shown in the image above, this is not a parking stall area. This is a travelway that leads to the entrance/exit and to the parking garage. - This is reportable

3. Parking stall area - This is non-reportable

School Campus

1. Travelway (entrance/exit to school) - This is reportable
2. Travelway connecting to another travelway. Although there are parked vehicles shown in the image, this is not a parking stall area. This is a travelway that leads out to another travelway - This is reportable
3. Travelway (front of school, student drop off/pick up area) - This is reportable
4. Travelway through parking stall area - This is reportable
5. Parking stall area - This is non-reportable

Understanding Crash Terms

Coding Parked Cars on a Dealer's Lot

Cars for sale sitting on a car dealer's lot are not coded as units. Use the Harmful Event of 48 (Other Fixed Object) and include the property damage description in the narrative. Additionally, the Property Damage Indicator should be set to YES. If a registered vehicle is involved in a crash while it is parked on a dealer's lot, the registered vehicle is coded as a legally parked unit.

What is a Commercial Vehicle?

For crash reporting purposes, a commercial vehicle is a motor vehicle designed or used to transport passengers or property and:

- Has a GVWR of >=10,001 pounds and used for business/commercial purposes.
- Has a GVWR of >=26,000.
- Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
- Is a school bus.
- Is placarded with hazardous materials, regardless of vehicle type.

Emergency vehicles such as fire trucks are also commercial vehicles regardless of their weight.

Commercial vehicles do not include the following: implements of husbandry, motor homes or recreational trailers operated solely for personal use, or motorized construction equipment including, but not limited to, motor scrapers, backhoes, motor graders, compactors, excavators, tractors, trenchers, and bulldozers.
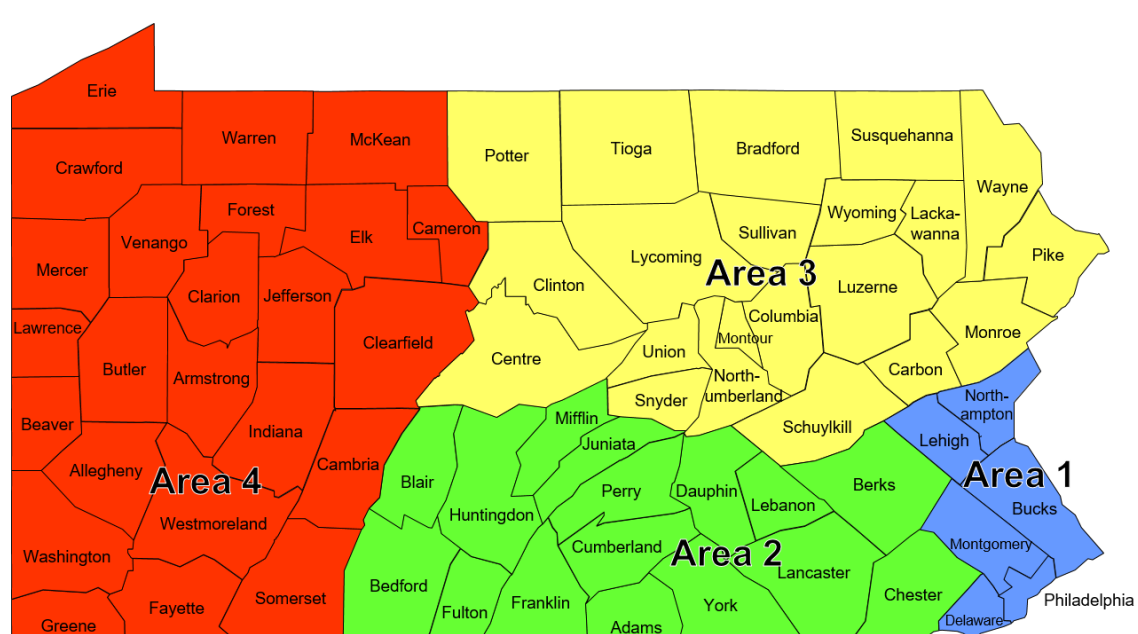
QUIZ: Determining Reportability

Introducing...

PennDOT's newest addition to the website, _Police Crash Reporting Tools_! This page can be located under Travel in PA > Safety > Police Crash Reporting Tools. Here you will find access to newsletter archives, the newly revised Crash Information Sheet, the most up to date AA-600 Driver Accident Report, and other useful tools and references. Click the link below to be redirected and be sure to bookmark the page for future reference.

Police Crash Reporting Tools

Regional Traffic Records Project Administrator Area Map (TRPA)

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Now that you've made it to the end of the newsletter, how would you rate its content?

Not helpful at all   0   1   2   3   4   Very helpful

For questions or concerns, email us at ra-pdleahelp@pa.gov.