

Remote Not-In-Traffic Surveillance Falling Vehicle Investigation
Dynamic Science, Inc. (DSI), Case Number DS09012
1994 GMC Jimmy
Nebraska
January 2009

This document is disseminated under the sponsorship of the Department of Transportation in the interest of information exchange. The United States Government assumes no responsibility for the contents or use thereof.

The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The crash investigation process is an inexact science which requires that physical evidence such as skid marks, vehicular damage measurements, and occupant contact points be coupled with the investigator's expert knowledge and experience of vehicle dynamics and occupant kinematics in order to determine the pre-crash, crash, and post-crash movements of involved vehicles and occupants.

Because each crash is a unique sequence of events, generalized conclusions cannot be made concerning the crashworthiness performance of the involved vehicle(s) or their safety systems.

1. Report No. DS09012		2. Government Accession No.		3. Recipient Catalog No.	
4. Title and Subtitle Remote Not-In-Traffic Surveillance Falling Vehicle Investigation			5. Report Date October 22, 2009		
7. Author(s) Dynamic Science, Inc.			6. Performing Organization Report No.		
9. Performing Organization name and Address Dynamic Science, Inc. 299 West Cerritos Avenue Anaheim, California 92805			8. Performing Organization Report No.		
12. Sponsoring Agency Name and Address U.S. Dept. of Transportation (NVS-411) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590			10. Work Unit No. (TRAIS)		
			11. Contract or Grant no. DTNH22-01-C-27002		
15. Supplemental Notes			13. Type of report and period Covered [Report Month, Year]		
			14. Sponsoring Agency Code		
16. Abstract This remote investigation focused on the circumstances surrounding the fatal injuries sustained by a non-motorist when a vehicle rolled off a pair of repair ramps. The subject vehicle was a 1994 GMC Jimmy sport utility vehicle. The rear of the vehicle was suspended on a pair of vehicle ramps and was being worked on by a 44-year-old male. For unknown reasons, the vehicle rolled down the ramps and trapped the non-motorist beneath the left rear tire. He was found to be unresponsive when discovered and was transported to a local trauma center by ground ambulance. He died later that day of compression asphyxia to the chest.					
17. Key Words Not-In-Traffic Surveillance (NITS), falling vehicle, ramp, fatality			18. Distribution Statement		
19. Security Classif. (of this report)	20. Security Classif. (of this page)	21. No of pages	22. Price		

Dynamic Science, Inc.
Crash Investigation
Case Number: DS09012
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background	1
Summary	1
Incident Site	1
Pre-Crash	1
Incident	2
Post-Crash	2
Vehicle Information - 1994 GMC Jimmy	2
Vehicle Damage	3
Ramp Information	2
Non-motorist Data	4
Injuries	4
Attachment 1. Incident Diagram	5
Attachment 2. Data Forms	6

BACKGROUND

This remote investigation focused on the circumstances surrounding the fatal injuries sustained by a non-motorist when a vehicle rolled off a pair of repair ramps. The subject vehicle was a 1994 GMC Jimmy sport utility vehicle (**Figure 1**). The rear of the vehicle was suspended on a pair of vehicle ramps and was being worked on by a 44-year-old male. For unknown reasons, the vehicle rolled down the ramps and trapped the non-motorist beneath the left rear tire. He was found to be unresponsive when discovered and was transported to a local trauma center by ground ambulance. He died later that day of compression asphyxia to the chest.



Figure 1. 1994 GMC Jimmy (police photo)

This Remote Not-In-Traffic Surveillance (NITS) Falling Vehicle Investigation was identified by DSI in an internet news article. The article was forwarded to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on February 23, 2009 and the case was assigned on March 6, 2009. An incident report was obtained from the investigating police agency on March 7, 2009. According to their records department, the incident was not reported to the state as a traffic fatality. On scene photographs were received on May 22, 2009.

SUMMARY

Incident Site

This incident occurred in January 2009 during the daylight hours. The incident occurred in an east/west driveway adjacent to a private residence that intersected a north/south roadway. The driveway was on private property and was located adjacent to a residence. The driveway was concrete composition and had an estimated eastbound downhill grade of negative 2 percent. There was grass on either side of the driveway. The temperature at the nearest reporting station was 2 degrees C (35 degrees F). The weather was clear and the wind was out of the west northwest at 29 km/h (18 mph). Based on the police photos, it appeared that the driveway was wet in spots from melted snow and that it was wet beneath the repair ramps.



Figure 2. View east from driveway (police photo)

Pre-Crash

The GMC was parked facing east with its rear tires raised by the ramps (**Figure 2**). The vehicle was owned by another party and was being repaired by the non-motorist in this incident. The ramps were placed with the inclines in the direction of the driveway's negative grade and the ramp's molded tire stops were behind the tires. The police photos show that the right ramp had been placed slightly forward of the left ramp. It was not known if the ramps had been moved post-incident. There was no data available to determine if the vehicle transmission was in PARK or if the parking brake had been engaged. The non-motorist was lying on his back underneath the GMC, forward of the left rear tire. The driver was working on the vehicle's drive shaft; the shaft had been removed and was located on the ground near the right front tire. The manufacturer specifically states on their warning sticker not to remove the drive shaft while the vehicle is on the ramps (see ramp information on the following page).

Incident

For unknown reasons, the GMC began moving and rolled down the ramps in a forward direction to the east. The removal of the drive shaft probably played a role in the incident. Removal of the drive shaft would have rendered the parking pawl inoperative thus allowing the vehicle to possibly roll if the parking brake was not applied. The GMC rolled down the ramp and traveled approximately 1.5 m (5 ft) before coming to rest with the non-motorist's chest and abdomen trapped beneath the left rear tire. The non-motorist was discovered by the owner of the GMC and the incident was reported to the police at 1456 hours. It was not known how long the non-motorist had been trapped. The owner of the GMC indicated that he had spoken to the non-motorist by phone approximately two hours before arriving on-scene. The owner of the GMC indicated that the non-motorist was unresponsive when he arrived.



Figure 3. Contact between GMC and Ford. GMC on left side of image (police photo).

Post-Crash

The owner of the GMC used his Ford Explorer in an attempt to either push the GMC rearward off the non-motorist or to prevent the GMC from rolling any further forward (**Figure 3**). The effort to free the non-motorist using the Ford was not successful. A floor jack was used by police and rescue personnel to extricate the non-motorist and he was transported to a local trauma center by ground ambulance. He died later that day from crush-related injuries to his chest. According to the coroner's office, the cause of death was compression asphyxia.

Vehicle Information

The subject vehicle in this incident was a 1994 GMC Jimmy 4-door sport utility vehicle. The vehicle was equipped with a 4.3-liter, 6-cylinder engine, automatic transmission, and 4-wheel

drive.

Vehicle Damage

There was no damage to the GMC related to the contact with the non-motorist. The GMC probably sustained minor front end damage from contact Ford Explorer.

Ramp Information

The GMC was being supported on a pair of Blitz RhinoRamps Model 8000 vehicle ramps (**Figures 4-5**). The Model 8000 was designed for vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) up to 3629 kg (8000 lbs). The GMC had a GVW of 2132 kg (4700 lbs). The ramps were constructed of structural foam plastic and had non-skid bases. The ramp specifications are as follows:

- Weight tolerance:** 907 kg (2000 lbs) per ramp or 1814 kg (4000 lbs) per pair
- Length:** 88.9 cm (35.0 in)
- Width:** 26.6 cm (10.5 in)
- Height:** 21.6 cm (8.5 in)
- Incline:** 17 degrees

Instructions were located on the “Warning” sticker on each ramp. An exemplar sticker was obtained from the ramp manufacturer. An overview of the warning sticker quotes are shown below:

- Do not exceed rated capacity of 907 kg (2000 lbs) each or 1814 kg (4000 lbs) per pair or 3629 kg (8000 lbs) GVW.
- Use only on hard level surface.
- Center loads between ramps.
- Use only as a matched pair to support either front or back end of vehicle.
- Inspect ramps before each use.
- Use on vehicles with maximum tire width of 19 cm (7.5 in).
- Do not use other lifting equipment in conjunction with the ramps.
- Do not disconnect brakes, engine, transmission components, driver train, drive shaft, universal joints, or wheels while the vehicle in on the ramps.
- Never accelerate or apply brakes suddenly.
- Do not use ramps on slick surfaces.
- Set emergency brake.
- Place vehicle in park (or in reverse for manual transmissions).
- Chock wheels on ground.



Figure 4. Blitz RhinoRamp (exemplar view)



Figure 5. Wheel ramp (police photo)

Non-motorist Data

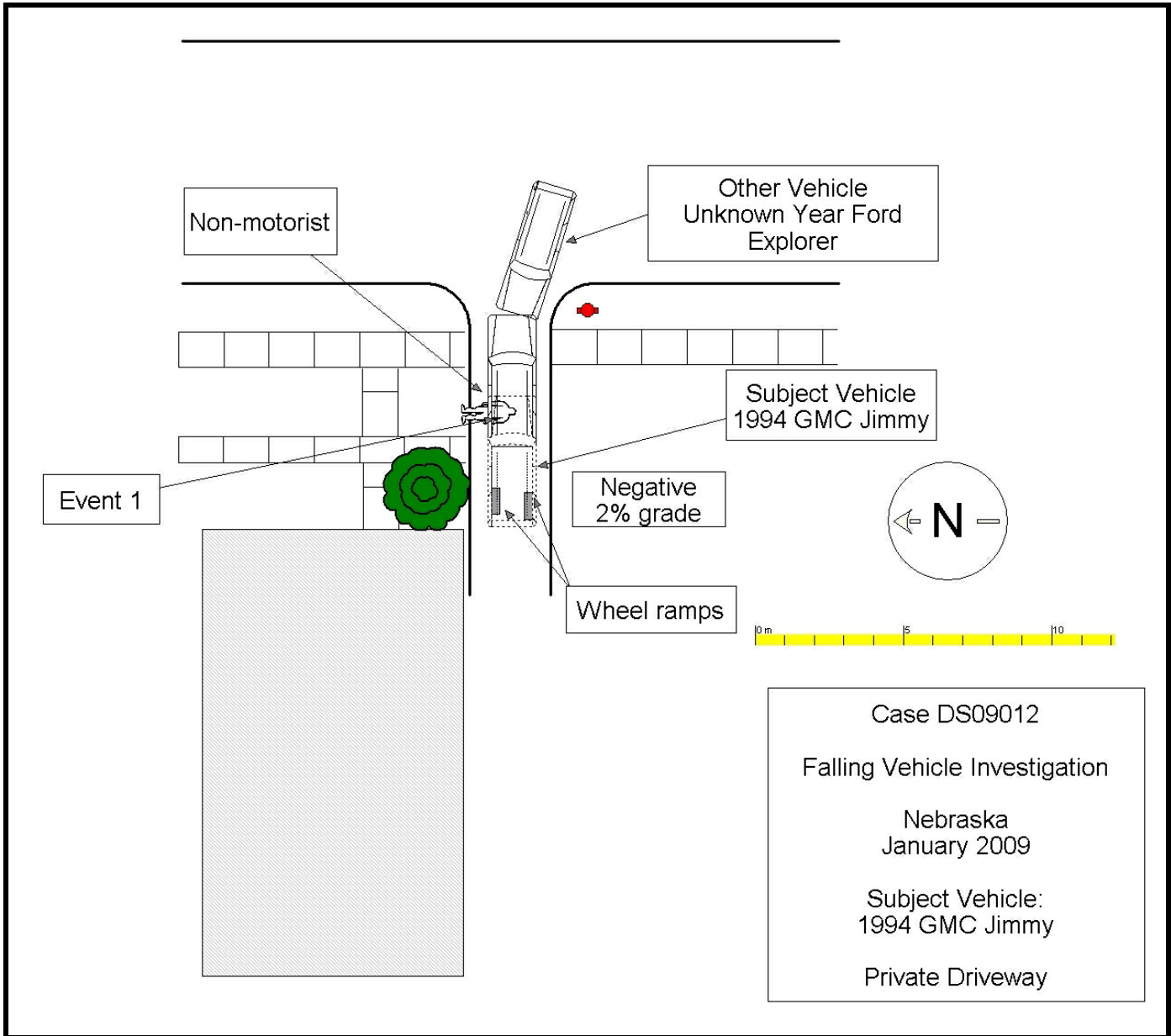
Age/Sex:	44/Male
Height:	180 cm (71 in)
Weight:	125 kg (275 lbs)
Type of medical treatment:	Transported to a local trauma center and died later that day.

Injuries

Non-motorist: Injuries obtained from interviewee.

<u>Injury</u>	<u>OIC Code</u>	<u>Injury Mechanism</u>	<u>Confidence Level</u>
Blunt/traumatic chest injury	415099.7,0	Tire	Certain

Attachment 1. Incident Diagram



Attachment 2. Data Forms



1. Case Number

IDENTIFICATION

2. Date of Crash ____ / ____ / ____

3. Time of Crash _____

Code reported military time of crash.

NOTE: Midnight = 2400
Unknown = 9999

AMBIENT CONDITIONS

4. Light Conditions

- Daylight
- Dark
- Dark but lighted
- Dawn
- Dusk
- Unknown

5. Atmospheric Conditions
(Select all that apply)

- Clear-No adverse conditions
- Cloudy
- Rain
- Snow
- Fog, Smog, Smoke
- Sleet, Hail (freezing rain or drizzle)
- Blowing Snow
- Severe Crosswinds
- Blowing Sand, Soil, Dirt
- Other (specify):
- Unknown

6. Temperature

- Below 0 degrees Celsius (Below 32 F)
- 1-10 degrees Celsius (33-50 F)
- >10-24 degrees Celsius (51-75 F)
- Over 24 degrees Celsius (Over 75 F)
- Unknown

SCENE INFORMATION

7. Type of area in which crash occurred
(Select all that apply)

- Single family residential
- Row houses/townhouses
- Multi family housing
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Rural
- Unknown

8. Driver exterior sightline obstructions
(Select all that apply)

- None
- Other vehicles
- Building
- Trees
- Shrubby
- Other (specify) _____
- Utility poles
- Signs
- Glare
- Unknown
- No driver present

9. Crash location

- Driveway
- Parking Lot
- Sidewalk
- Alley
- Intersection of driveway and sidewalk
- Road / street
- Roadside / shoulder
- Other (specify) _____
- Unknown

10. Non motorist sightline obstructions
(Select all that apply)

- None
- Other vehicles
- Building
- Trees
- Shrubby
- Utility poles
- Signs
- Glare
- Other (specify) _____
- Unknown

11. Grade at parked position _____ +/- _____ %

12. Estimated distance from parked position to impact

_____ m

13. Estimated speed at impact _____ +/- _____ kmph

14. Grade at impact _____ +/- _____ %

15. Estimated distance from impact to vehicle final rest

_____ m

Unknown = 999 Reference Items 11,12, 13, 14, 15



VEHICLE FORM

1. Case Number _____

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION

2. VIN _____

3. Model Year _____

4. Vehicle Make (specify): _____

5. Vehicle Model (specify): _____

GLAZING

Location	Presence (check)	Status (select)	Clarity (select)	Tint (check)	Glazing Obstructions (specify if present)
Windshield		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
LF		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
RF		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
2 nd Left		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
2 nd Right		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
3 rd Left		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
3 rd Right		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
Backlight		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
Left Backlight		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
Right Backlight		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
Roof		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
Other (specify)		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		

TIRE DATA

6. Vehicle Manufacturer Recommended Tire Size _____

7. LF Tire Size _____

9. RF Tire Size _____

8. LR Tire Size _____

10. RR Tire Size _____

Seats / Head Restraint Data

Seat Position	Seat Type (Select from below)	Head Restraint (Check if available)	Head Restraint Adjustment (select)	NOTES:
Front Left			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
Front Middle			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
Front Right			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
2 nd Left			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
2 nd Middle			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
2 nd Right			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
3 rd Left			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
3 rd Middle			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
3 rd Right			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	

Seat Type codes:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 0 = No seat or seat folded down | 8 = Pedestal (i.e. column supported) |
| 1 = Bucket | 9 = Box mounted (i.e. van type) |
| 2 = Bucket w/ folding back | 10= Other seat type (specify) |
| 3 = Bench | 99= Unknown seat type |
| 4 = Bench with folding back cushions | |
| 5 = Bench w/ folding back | |
| 6 = Split bench w/ separate back cushions | |
| 7 = Split bench w/ separate folding back | |

VEHICLE MEASUREMENTS

Clearance Heights	Measurements (all from ground, and in centimeters)	NOTES
Beltline		
Top of trunk/tailgate		
Bottom of bumper		
Trailer hitch (if applicable)		
Undercarriage		
Sway bar		
Axle		
Differential		
Other (specify):		
Sensor Height (if equipped)		
Camera Height (if equipped)		



1. Case Number

PARKING AID PRESENCE

2. Type of backing/parking aid present

- OEM camera
- OEM ultrasonic/radar sensor
- OEM combination camera-ultrasonic/radar sensor
- OEM Fresnel lens
- OEM interior mirrors
- Aftermarket camera
- Aftermarket ultrasonic/radar sensor
- Aftermarket combination camera-ultrasonic radar sensor
- Aftermarket Fresnel lens
- Aftermarket interior mirrors
- Other (specify): _____

CAMERA INFORMATION

Specify field of view measurements on diagram

3. System make/model

4. Video monitor type

- None present
- LCD (color)
- CRT (black & white)
- Unknown

5. Video display size _____ cm
(Diagonal)

6. Camera location

- None present
- Bumper
- License plate
- Tailgate/Hatch/Trunk
- Other (specify): _____

7. Video image quality under scene lighting conditions

- None present
- Good
- Average
- Poor (specify): _____
- Unknown

8. Was the camera functioning properly

- None present
- Yes
- No, poor image quality due to glare
- No, poor image quality due to atmospheric conditions
- No, camera turned off
- No, camera inoperable
- Unknown

ULTRASONIC/RADAR SENSOR

Specify object detection range on diagram

9. System make/model

10. Auditory warning illumination

- No sensor present
- Yes
- No
- Unknown

11. Number of sensors _____

12. Sensor locations
(Select all that apply)

- No sensor present
- Left bumper
- Center bumper
- Right bumper
- License plate area
- Tailgate/Hatch/Trunk

13. Was warning system functioning properly

- No sensor present
- Yes, system alerted driver
- No, system did not alert driver
- No, system turned off
- No, system inoperable
- Unknown

14. Did driver react to warning

- No sensor present
- Yes
- No
- Unknown

15. Did driver report common false warnings

- No sensor present
- Yes
- No
- Unknown



DRIVER FORM

1. Case Number

DRIVER PROFILE

2. Driver's Age _____
99 = Unknown

3. Driver's Sex Male
 Female
 Unknown

4. Driver's Height _____ cm
999 = Unknown

5. Driver's Weight _____ kg
999 = Unknown

6. Driver eyewear worn
(Select all that apply)
 None
 Eyeglasses
 Sunglasses
 Contacts
 Unknown

7. Driver vision deficiency condition
(Select all that apply)
 None
 Near sighted
 Far sighted
 Astigmatism
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

8. Non motorist's relationship to driver
 No relationship
 Child
 Grandchild
 Sibling
 Neighbor
 Friend
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

DRIVER ACTIONS

9. Driver approach to vehicle for entry
From left front
 From left
 From left rear
 From right rear
 From right front
 Circled vehicle
 Return trip (backing into driveway/lot)
 Other (specify): _____
 N/A
 Unknown

10. Driver entry interruption
(Select all that apply)
 Direct trip from building to vehicle
 Loaded items into vehicle
 Spoke with family
 Spoke with neighbors
 Spoke with contacted nonmotorist
 Return trip (backing into driveway/lot)
 Other (specify): _____
 N/A
Unknown

11. Purpose of backing
 Leaving parking space in parking lot
 Backing onto roadway from driveway
 Entering parking space in parking lot
 Backing into driveway from roadway
 Other (specify): _____
 N/A
Unknown

12. Where was driver going
Description:

13. Driver in a hurry
 Yes N/A
 No Unknown
 Unknown

14. How did driver check behind (rear area of vehicle)
after vehicle entry
(Select all that apply)
 Did not look
 Checked mirrors
 Turned right and looked back
 Turned left and looked back
 Viewed Camera
 Listened for auditory/visual warning from system
 Other (specify): _____
N/A Unknown

15. Estimated time between vehicle entry and start
of backing
 0-10 Seconds Over 60 Seconds
 11-30 Seconds N/A
 31-60 Seconds Unknown

16. What direction was the driver looking during backing maneuver
(Select all that apply)
- Straight ahead
 - Right
 - Left
 - Rearward
 - At object inside the car
 - At mirrors
 - Other (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
17. Was the driver distracted during back up maneuver
(Select all that apply)
- No non-driving activities
 - External**
 - Looking at other vehicles
 - Looking at other non motorist
 - Looking at intended turn destination
 - External focus, not specified
 - Other external focus (specify): _____
 - Internal**
 - Looking at other occupant
 - Talking to passenger
 - Dialing phone
 - Talking on phone
 - Listening to radio/cd/portable playback device
 - Adjusting radio/cd player
 - Adjusting climate controls
 - Using a device/controls integral to vehicle (specify): _____
 - Reading/adjusting navigation system
 - Eating or drinking
 - Smoking related
 - Retrieving fallen object (specify): _____
 - Internal focus, not specified
 - Focused on other internal object (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
18. Driver avoidance actions prior to impact
(Select all that apply)
- None
 - Braking
 - Steering left
 - Steering right
 - Accelerating
 - Other (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
19. Did driver see struck non motorist prior to impact
(Select all that apply)
- No, never saw non motorist
 - Saw non motorist prior to entering vehicle
 - Saw non motorist after entering vehicle
 - Other (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
20. Est time between start of backing and impact
- <2 or = 1 second
 - 2-5 seconds
 - 6-10 seconds
 - > 10 seconds
 - N/A
 - Unknown
21. Driver interior sightline obstructions
(Select all that apply)
- Pillar
 - Headrest
 - Cargo
 - Other occupant
 - Other (specify) _____
 - Unknown
 - None
22. Recent experience driving this vehicle
- More than 10 times the last three months
 - 6-10 times the last three months
 - 2-5 times the last three months
 - Less than 2 times the last three months
 - First time driving this vehicle
 - N/A
 - Unknown
23. Frequency of driving in this parking lot/driveway
- Daily
 - Weekly
 - Several times a month
 - Monthly
 - Rarely
 - First time in lot/driveway
 - N/A
 - Unknown
24. Driver Impairment
(Select all that apply)
- No drugs or alcohol present
 - Alcohol present (specify BAC): _____
 - Drugs present (specify): _____
 - Unknown
25. Source of alcohol/drug results
- Police reported
 - Medical record
 - Other (specify) _____
 - Not Tested
 - Unknown if tested



Non Motorist Form

1. Case Number

NON-MOTORIST PROFILE

2. Non-motorist's Age _____ Months
_____ Years
99 = Unknown

3. Non-motorist's Sex
 Male
 Female
 Unknown

4. Non-motorist's Height _____ cm
999 = Unknown

5. Non-motorist's Weight _____ kg
999 = Unknown

6. Medical outcome
 Not injured
 ER only
 Hospitalized 1-4 days
 Hospitalized 5 days or more
 Treatment later
 Fatal
 Unknown

7. Source of most severe injury
 Bumper
 Tire
 Undercarriage
 Other Specify: _____
 Ground
 N/A
 Unknown

8. Non-motorist impairment
(Select all that apply)
 No drugs or alcohol present
 Positive for alcohol (specify BAC): _____
 Positive for drugs (specify): _____
 Unknown

9. Source of alcohol/drug results
 Police reported
 Medical Report
 Other (specify) _____
 Not Tested
 Unknown if tested

NON-MOTORIST ACTIONS

10. Non-motorist attitude
 Standing
 Bending at waist
 Sitting
 Crouching
 Kneeling
 On skates/skateboard
 On bike/scooter
 Other (specify) _____
 Unknown

11. Non-motorist motion
 Not moving
 Walking slowly
 Walking rapidly
 Running or jogging
 Skipping/Hopping/Jumping
 Falling/Stumbling/Rising
 On skates/skateboard
 On bike/scooter
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

12. Non-motorist approach relative to rear of vehicle
 Stationary
 From left
 From right
 From behind
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

13. Non-motorist first avoidance action
 No avoidance actions
 Stopped
 Accelerated pace
 Ran away (along vehicle path)
 Jumped
 Turned away from vehicle
 Turned toward vehicle and braced
 Dove or fell away from vehicle
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

14. Non-motorist primary focus of attention
 Striking vehicle
 Play object
 Person
 Surrounding traffic
 Animal
 Handheld electronic (phone, MP3 player, etc.)
 Other Object (specify) _____
 Unknown

15. Were any other Non-motorists present?
(Select all that apply)
 Alone
 One adult present
 One other child present
 Multiple adults present
 Multiple children present
 Unknown

NON MOTORIST CLOTHING

NOTES:

- Specify Color, Fabric and Texture/Weight for outermost layer only
- Indicate "NONE" if applicable
- Available codes:

	<u>Colors</u>		<u>Fabrics</u>		<u>Textures</u>		<u>Weights</u>
Black	Charcoal gray		Natural		Soft		Heavy
Lt gray/silver	Brown		Synthetic		Slick		Medium
Gold/tan	Purple		Blend		Coarse		Light
Dark blue	Light blue						
Dark green	Light green						
Maroon	Red						
Orange	Yellow						
White	Other (specify)						

	Clothing	Color	Fabric	Texture	Weight
H E A D W E A R	Hat				
	Helmet				
	Hood				
	Other (specify): _____				
U P P E R B O D Y	Short Sleeve				
	Long Sleeve				
	Light Jacket				
	Heavy Jacket				
	Other (Specify): _____				
L O W E R B O D Y	Shorts				
	Pants				
	Shoes				
	Other (specify): _____				