



# WASHINGTON FARS



WASHINGTON  
**Traffic Safety**  
COMMISSION

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## CRASH REPORTS: WHAT'S THE BIG HURRY?

Crash data analysts and researchers understand that it takes time to fully identify and document the events of a vehicle crash, particularly when serious injury or death has resulted.

Investigators' time and expertise is appreciated and respected. The earliest possible notification of a fatal crash is critical as this information provides the data that lays the groundwork for the next year's, biennium's, or cycle's traffic safety planning and funding.

Community traffic safety events, local mobilizations of state or national safety campaigns, and special programs that address existing and emerging traffic safety issues are all funded based on serious injury and fatality data. Washington's traffic safety world is *data-driven*.

Additional information, e.g. contributing circumstances, roadway characteristics, pedestrian actions, restraint use, cargo body types, etc., can be added to the data base as it is received.

If you would like to know your agency's fatal crash

reporting history, please call (360-725-9892) or email me, [mnickerson@wtsc.wa.gov](mailto:mnickerson@wtsc.wa.gov).

### BASIC ELEMENTS FOR EARLY FATAL CRASH NOTIFICATION:

- **Date of Crash**
- **Time of Crash**
- **Number of Fatalities**
- **Investigating Agency**

### ADDITIONAL DESIRED BASIC ELEMENTS

- Location (Roadway/Milepost)
- County
- Person information (for motorists & non-motorists): Name\*/age/sex
- Person Type (driver, passenger, pedestrian, pedalcyclist)
- City of residence
- Restraint/helmet used: Yes/No
- Injury level
- Vehicle make/model/year
- Brief description of the crash, including the fatal event.

\*If NOK has been notified; otherwise, "Doe, J."

## WSP: State Collision Records Repository

By James Morelli

The Washington State Patrol Collision Records Section works in partnership with three other state agencies: Transportation (WSDOT), Licensing (WSDOL), and Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC). We receive all vehicle collision reports from law enforcement officers of the state, county, city, town, or other political subdivision along with civilians that report their own collisions.

The section is revising the way that incoming Police Traffic Collision Reports (PTCR) and Civilian Vehicle Collision Reports (VCR) are processed; this also applies to collision report requests from the public and entitled parties/agencies.

Each staff member handles reports submitted from all jurisdictions within specific geographical areas. They review and route the Collision Report

to the appropriate agency for records management as needed, and contact partner agencies for corrections to unusual or nonstandard reports. Then the reports are imaged and reviewed for indexing into the Stellent database, from which WSDOT and DOL researchers extract the data for agency tabulation and analysis. The new process should lower error rates as staff will be responsible for the data they enter and process.

One of the unit's primary goals is to improve collision reporting time. If you have questions about timely reporting or would like to know more about what we do, please feel free to give us a call at (360) 570 -2355 and talk to one of the staff here. Thanks to each of you for all you do, every day.

Please see Sheriffs' Office Reporting and Police Department Reporting on the next page.

## 2013 Qtr 2 FATAL CRASH REPORTING STAR



Officer  
Stephen  
Showalter,  
**LYNNWOOD**  
**PD!**

**Officer  
Showalter  
submitted an  
email  
notification of a  
fatal crash  
within four  
days of the  
crash.**

Thanks to all  
investigators who  
promptly submit  
notice of fatal  
crashes.

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\*Fatality Analysis Reporting System

## 100 Days of Summer: *Hot Times for Our Teens*



The “100 days of summer” typically refer, in traffic safety speak, to the period between 6 PM on Friday before Memorial Day and 5:59 AM on Tuesday after Labor Day.

While we welcome summer for many reasons, including warm weather, outdoor activities, and long-anticipated vacations, those 100 days have their downside. Summer also ushers in increased teen driving deaths.

Traffic collisions are the leading cause of death for U.S. teenagers. In Washington there were 108 deaths during the summer months of 2008—2012 that involved teen drivers. This number was 31.5% of all teen driver-involved deaths.

Young drivers aged 16-25 have the highest fatal crash rates, the highest rates of speeding, impaired driving, and distracted driving of any driver age group involved in fatal crashes.

**FEEDBACK:** This newsletter is a work-in-progress and intended to open discussion between crash data crunchers and “boots on the ground.” Please give us your feedback and suggestions for topics that could be addressed by email (mnickerson@wtsc.wa.gov) or phone (360) 725-9892. Guest contributors from law enforcement or other traffic safety professionals are welcome!

## WSP: State Collision Records Repository

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### SHERIFF'S OFFICE FATAL REPORTING

S.O.	# FATAL CRASHES	AVG. DAYS LAPSED
Walla Walla	1	2
Grant	1	5
Grays Harbor	2	9
Spokane	1	9
Snohomish	3	10

### SHERIFF'S OFFICE OVERALL REPORTING

S.O.	% OF LATE* REPORTS
Benton	6%
Douglas	7%
Ferry	8%
Franklin	0%
Lewis	0%
Mason	9%
Kitsap	6%
Yakima	10%

### POLICE DEPARTMENT FATAL

P.D.	# FATAL CRASHES	AVG. DAYS LAPSED
Grandview	1	2
Marysville	1	3
Enumclaw	1	6
Kennewick	1	7
Lakewood	1	8
Redmond	1	9

### POLICE DEPARTMENT OVERALL

P.D.	% OF LATE* REPORTS
Kennewick	2%
Richland	6%
Woodland	5%
Auburn	10%
Enumclaw	6%
Issaquah	5%
Kirkland	6%
Renton	1%
Des Moines	9%
Pacific	9%
Kenmore	7%
Bremerton	1%



\*“late reports” are defined here as being received 10+ days post crash