

Kansas Accident Reporting Newsletter

DISTRIBUTION: DECEMBER

* PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORTING STAFF *

2013 REPORTING DEADLINE

Per normal practice, all state-reportable accident reports for 2013 will need to be submitted to KDOT by **January 31st, 2014**.

Please ensure your agency is current in reporting. Once your agency has submitted all 2013 reports after Dec. 31st, **please remember to go to our law enforcement [webpage](#) to mark completion.**

(use link under Contact Information: Ordering Forms)

If you would like KDOT to send a list of the reports that have been fully processed for your agency, simply request such at any time by using the contact information on this page.

AGENCY REPORT TIMELINESS

We strive for the most timely and accurate accident reporting. The recent traffic records assessment by our federal partners encouraged us to monitor such with even more intention going forward.

To assist in monitoring, we are generating a report showing the reporting timeliness of each agency. Reflected is the average reporting time per agency and the percentage of records that were submitted electronically. We will review the results and contact agencies as needed.

Submitting reports daily or weekly is very helpful to improve timeliness. If you would like information on how to improve reporting times, we can put you in contact with other agencies that have improved their timeliness. Also, if you have interest in electronic submission, contact the KHP at 1-877-317-4597 to discuss software options.

Inside this issue:

<i>Report Timeliness</i>	1
<i>Coding Help</i>	2
<i>Narratives/DC-66</i>	3
<i>Christmas Stats</i>	4

Contact Information

- ◆ **Accident Coding Help or data requests:**
785.296.0456 or accidentdata@ksdot.org
- ◆ **“Wrecks”** - 785.296.5169 or rex@ksdot.org
- ◆ **Ordering Forms:**
 - * Accidents (KDOT forms):
<http://www.ksdot.org/burtransplan/prodinfo/lawinfo.asp> or call 785.296.7789
 - * KBI forms: 785.296.8200
 - * DC Forms: 785.296.3671
- ◆ **KLER Software:**
1-877-317-4597 or helpdesk@khp.ks.gov
- ◆ **KLER e-submission to KDOT:** 785-296-4851
TRAdmin@ksdot.org
- ◆ **Addresses** are listed in the [Motor Vehicle Accident Coding Manual](#)—Page 3



**The quality of
accident
reporting is
crucial to traffic
safety**

VEHICLE DAMAGE / ACCIDENT SEVERITY

One common coding issue we see is related to the relationship between the Vehicle Damage field and the Accident Severity indicator.

If the Vehicle Damage is recorded on form 850B as 03 (disabled) or 04 (destroyed), the Accident Severity indicator on the 850A form should not be marked as less than (<) \$1,000 damage.

The definition of disabling damage is as follows:

“Disabling damage prevents de-parture of the vehicle from the scene of the accident in its usual operating manner by daylight after simple repairs.”

It does not take very much damage these days to exceed \$1,000. Also, remember the damage estimate is based upon **all damage** to vehicles, objects, private property, etc.

LOCATION INFORMATION CHECK

Many agencies receive accident reports back from the state regarding the location information. It occurs to us that we should communicate how a discrepancy is determined. One might say, “How can you question the location data when you are not present on scene?”

The determination is based upon disagreement between the report **narrative, collision diagram, Accident Location code, and location description** in the top section of the 850A form.

Common Example: The **AT** circle is marked and the **Accident Location** is marked as a **12**. However, the **diagram** and **narrative** indicate the accident first harmful event occurred outside the intersection boundaries requiring a **distance, unit of measure** and **direction FROM** the intersection. (Either the coding is incorrect or the narrative and diagram are incorrect.)

If those that complete and review reports would evaluate the same criteria, these reports could be corrected prior to state submission and thus not returned for correction.





MANAGER MUSINGS — THANK YOU!

As another year comes to a close, I want to thank the many hard working law enforcement personnel involved in accident reporting.

We recognize that many do not relish the opportunity to put themselves in harms way in order to handle a crash scene. From safety concerns, injured and upset individuals, traffic obstructions, and detailed documentation, stress and frustration can be high. Moreover, staff resources and competing agency priorities can add complication.

You are to be commended for your commitment to serving the public in this way. It is your detailed effort that assists the investigation and subsequent reporting. As I have stated before, everyone is counting on your best effort: the individuals involved, traffic safety advocates, road engineers, legislative bodies, research institutions, insurance companies, and so on.

Take joy and pride in knowing that your efforts do not go unnoticed and are very much appreciated!

Wrecks



“Wrecks”
Rex McCommon

Kansas
Motor Vehicle
Accident Data
Manager

**REPORTING IS
INVESTIGATION;
INVESTIGATION
IS KNOWLEDGE;
KNOWLEDGE
INFORMS DECISIONS.**

ACCIDENT NARRATIVES AND DC-66 FORMS

For each accident, a basic narrative is very helpful along with witness statements. If recorded, they are to be sent to the state with / on the accident forms. Accurate descriptions are very useful for traffic safety research and data quality assurance. Remember, extended narratives are mandatory for every fatal accident.

Regarding the DC (Driver Control) forms, please do not attach DC-66 forms or copy the DC-66 page onto the back of accident forms sent to the Kansas Department of Transportation. All DC forms go to the Department of Revenue for processing. The KDOT is only responsible for processing the Motor Vehicle Accident Reports.

State agency (KDOT, KBI, & KDOR) contact and address information is located on page 3 of the [Motor Vehicle Coding Manual](#).

Kansas Department of Transportation
 Kansas Accident Data Manager
 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor
 Topeka, KS 66603



Attn: Accident Reporting Personnel

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY STATS

For 2012, the Christmas reporting period reflects significantly less overall accidents compared to the yearly average.

Though, the alcohol-related accidents were slightly above average.



2012 Kansas Traffic Accident Facts

Holiday Statistics Christmas



Friday-Tuesday; 102-Hour Reporting Period

Accident Type	Christmas 2012 Friday - Tuesday	Average Friday - Tuesday for 2012
All Accidents	457	641
Injury Accidents	103	151
Fatal Accidents	4	5
Alcohol-Related Accidents	40	36
Alcohol-Related Injury Accidents	16	15
Alcohol-Related Fatal Accidents	1	1