POLICE REPORT QUICK GUIDE

Your North Carolina Police Report cannot be interpreted or understood without the related form DMV-349 code sheet. This Quick Guide provides all DMV report coding. Simply compare numbered entries on your accident report to the corresponding numbered code boxes in this Guide to understand all findings and conclusions contained in your report.

Quick Fault Analysis
The investigating officer’s summary opinion of who caused the accident can be easily located along the right margin on the front page of the Police Report.

The boxes numbered 14, 15 and 16 list mistakes made by the driver and vehicle described on the left side of the report (usually identified as Unit #1.)

The boxes numbered 17, 18 and 19 list mistakes made by the driver and vehicle described on the right side of the report (usually identified as Unit #2.)

Locate the “fault boxes” and compare the Police Officer’s entries to the following codes to identify all driver errors:

- 0 No contributing circumstances indicated
- 1 Disregarded yield sign
- 2 Disregarded stop sign
- 3 Disregarded other traffic signs
- 4 Disregarded traffic signals
- 5 Disregarded road markings
- 6 Exceeded authorized speed limit
- 7 Exceeded safe speed for conditions
- 8 Failure to reduce speed
- 9 Improper turn
- 10 Right turn on red
- 11 Crossed centerline/going wrong way
- 12 Improper lane change
- 13 Use of improper lane
- 14 Overcorrected/oversteered
- 15 Passed stopped school bus
- 16 Passed on hill
- 17 Passed on curve
- 18 Other improper passing
- 19 Failed to yield right of way
- 20 Inattention
- 21 Improper backing
- 22 Improper parking
- 23 Driver distracted
- 24 Improper or no signal
- 25 Followed too closely
- 26 Operated vehicle in erratic, reckless, careless, negligent or aggressive manner
- 27 Swerved or avoided due to wind, slippery surface, vehicle, object, non-motorist
- 28 Visibility obstructed
- 29 Operated defective equipment
- 30 Alcohol use
- 31 Drug use
- 32 Other*
- 33 Unable to determine
- 34 Unknown
- 35 Driver distracted by electronic communication device (cell phone, texting, etc.)
- 36 Driver distracted by other electronic device (navigation device, DVD player, etc.)
- 37 Driver distracted by other inside the vehicle
- 38 Driver distracted by external distraction (outside the vehicle)

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North Carolina Crash Report Form DMV-349

A reportable motor vehicle crash must meet at least one of the following criteria:
- results in a fatality,
- a non-fatal personal injury, or
- property damage of $1,000 or greater, or
- property damage of any amount to a vehicle seized by a peace officer.

In addition, a reportable motor vehicle crash must occur on a roadway (any land way open to the public as a matter of right or custom for moving persons or property from one place to another) or occur after the motor vehicle runs off the roadway but before events are stabilized.

The terms collision, accident, and crash are synonymous when describing a motor vehicle crash.

(FILLING OUT THE DMV-349)

(*) EXPLAIN IN CRASH NARRATIVE

(1) IF QUESTION DOES NOT APPLY, USE A DASH

(2) IF A SECTION DOES NOT APPLY, DRAW A DIAGONAL LINE THROUGH SECTION

(3) ONLY USE "CHECK BLOCKS" IF THEY APPLY

The Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) requests that:

1. The DMV-349 should be typewritten or if handwritten the officer should use black ink.
2. The report should be legible. This is of utmost importance for clarity, when reports are microfilmed or for later storage, and
3. The original should be submitted to the DMV Traffic Records Section.

(20) Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV)

A commercial motor vehicle (CMV) is defined as a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the motor vehicle:
- Has a gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds inclusive of a towed unit.
- Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, or
- Is of any size and is used in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous for the purposes of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act and which require the motor vehicle to be placarded under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 FR Part 172, Subpart F).

✓ If the vehicle is a CMV, check box 20 on the DMV-349

(30) Trapped

1. Yes
2. No
3. Unknown

(31) Ejection

1. Not ejected
2. Totally ejected
3. Partially ejected
4. Unknown

(32) Injury Status

1. Killed
2. A type injury (disabling)
3. B type injury (evacuant)
4. C type injury (possible)
5. No injury
6. Unknown

Names and Addresses

Names and addresses are necessary for all persons involved in the crash, including non-motorists, as well as motor vehicle occupants.

This will help later investigations, including identifying persons previously involved in a crash, as well as persons whose injury status is later updated following a crash.

Vehicle Towing

Towed To:

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(33) Relation to Roadway Surface
The location of the first harmful event (at the crash level) as it relates to its position within or outside the trafficway
1 On Roadway (Surface)
2 Off Roadway
3 Shoulder
4 Median
5 Roadside
6 Outside Trafficway
7 Unknown

(34) Vision Obstruction
6 None
1 Vehicle window(s) obscured
2 Trees, crops, brush, etc.
3 Building(s)
4 Embankment
5 Sign(s)
6 Hillcrest
7 Paved vehicle(s)
8 Vehicle(s) in traffic/moving
9 Blinded, headlights
10 Blinded, sunlight
11 Blinded, other lights
12 Other*
13 Unknown

(35) Physical Condition
1 Apparently normal
2 Illness
3 Fatigue
4 Fall steep, bended, loss of consciousness
5 Impairment due to medications, drugs, alcohol
6 Medical condition
7 Other physical impairment
8 Restriction not complied with
9 Other
10 Unknown

(36) Driver License Restrictions
Restrictions assigned to an individual’s driver license by the license examiner.
Indicate restrictions shown on the Driver’s License. For out-of-state drivers, write out the restrictions.

(37) Alcohol/Drugs Suspected
0 No
1 Yes - alcohol, impairment suspected
2 Yes - alcohol, no impairment detected
3 Yes - other drugs, impairment suspected
4 Yes - other drugs, no impairment detected
5 Yes - alcohol and other drugs impaired suspected
6 Yes - alcohol and other drugs, no impairment detected
7 Unknown

(38) Alcohol/Drugs Test Status
0 No test
1 Alcohol test
2 Test for other drugs
3 Alcohol & other drugs
4 Test refused
5 Unknown

(39) Alcohol/Drugs Test Results
0 No test
1 No alcohol or other drugs
2 Alcohol (percent BAC)
3 Other drugs reported
4 Contaminated sample/unsus
5 Pending
6 Unknown

(40) Vehicle Seizure (DWI)
Check this box if the crash involves alcohol or other drugs in sufficient amount to constitute a DWI, and the vehicle is seizable.

(41) Vehicle Style (Type)
1 Passenger car
2 Pickups
3 Light truck (minivan, panel)
4 Sport utility
5 Van
6 Commercial bus
7 School bus
8 Activity bus
9 Other bus
10 Single unit truck (2-axle, 5-tire)
11 Single unit truck (3 or more axles)
12 Trucker/tractor (i.e., semi, boltall)
13 Tractor/semi-trailer
14 Tractor/trailer
15 Tractor/units
16 Unknown heavy truck
17 Trailers
18 Farm equipment
19 Farm tractor
20 Motorcycle
21 Moped
22 Motor scooter or motor bike
23 Pedestrian
24 Pedestrian
25 Motor home recreational vehicle
26 Other
27 All terrain vehicle (ATV)
28 Firetruck
29 EMS Vehicle, Ambulance, Rescue Squad
30 Military
31 Police
32 Unknown

(42) Vehicle Drivable
Vehicle is drivable or damage severe enough to prevent driving for comparison purposes, this data element could be used as a minimum reporting threshold for “property damage only” crashes.

(43) TAD
Damaged Areas
1 Front
2 Rear
3 Left
4 Right
5 Front left corner
6 Front right corner
7 Rear left corner
8 Rear right corner
9 Left side (door)
10 Right side (door)
11 Left side front quarter
12 Right side front quarter
13 Left side rear quarter
14 Right side rear quarter
15 Left side distributed
16 Right side distributed
17 Left side & top (roof)
18 Right side & top (roof)
19 TDP
20 Top
21 Underside

Extent of Deformity
The Severity of Damage is based on a scale of “0” being no damage and “7” being the most severe damage

(44) Estimated Damage
Dollar estimate of the cost to restore the vehicle to its condition just prior to the crash, or the estimated value of the vehicle before the crash, whichever is less. For a “towed” vehicle, enter a dollar estimate of the actual value of the vehicle prior to the crash. Do not enter the word “towed.”

A vehicle being towed by another is part of the towing vehicle and its damage should be included in “Parts Damaged” and “Amount of Damage” categories.

CRASH/MOTOR VEHICLE UNIT
A motor vehicle crash is any event that results in death, injury or property damage attributable directly to a motor vehicle or its load in transport, but not involving aircraft or watercraft. It must occur on a trafficway or after the motor vehicle runs off the roadway but before events are stabilized.

A motor vehicle is any mechanically or electrically powered device, not operated on rails, upon which any person or property may be transported or drawn upon a highway.

A unit is any motor vehicle, pedestrian, bicyclist, moped or other road vehicle, excluding railway vehicles, which can be shown on the report as “other” TR Type.

DRIVERLESS MOTOR VEHICLE
A driverless motor vehicle, though previously parked, or a motor vehicle out of control while being towed or pushed, is considered to be a motor vehicle in transport. Also, an abandoned motor vehicle, upon a roadway, is considered to be a motor vehicle in transport. This principle does not apply to such devices as farm or industrial machinery, highway graders, construction machinery, or similar devices which are not in use at the time of the crash for transport.

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Key Definitions
Non-Contact Vehicle or Non-Motorist
Non-contact phantom motor vehicles or non-motorists are units that caused the crash but left the scene. They should not be counted in the number of units, but should be referred to in the narrative.

Non-contact motor vehicles or non-motorists are units that caused the crash and remained at the scene. They should be counted as units with identifying information, and referred to in the narrative. A school bus could be an example of a contact vehicle that is involved in a crash (refer to data element #63).

School Bus
A school bus used for the transportation of any school pupil or at or below the 12th-grade level is or from a public or private school or related activity.

A school bus must be externally identifiable by the color yellow, the words “school bus,” flashing red lights located on the front and rear, and identifying lettering on both sides indicating the school or school district served, or the company operating the bus.

Motor Vehicle Status
The use of the device at the time of the crash is the primary criterion for establishing motor vehicle status. For example:

1. A registered motor vehicle is being drawn by a team of horses on a city street; it is considered other road vehicle.
2. A registered motor vehicle is being used to draw a plow engaged in breaking ground on a farm; it is considered farm machinery while engaged in plowing.
3. A registered truck is engaged in spreading concrete at a road construction site; it is construction machinery.
4. A motorized highway grader, under its own power, is moving from one work place to another on a public way, it is considered a motor vehicle in transport.
5. A registered truck, with a blade attached, is engaged in plowing snow from a trafficway; it is considered road maintenance machinery.
6. A riding, motorized lawn mower, under its own power, is being driven from one home to another on a city street; it is considered a motor vehicle in transport.
7. A military tank is being moved, under its own power, from the firing range to the motor pool; on a land way or a military post; it is considered a motor vehicle in transport.