



# The DISPATCH

PennDOT Crash Newsletter - News you can use!

## What's New?

### Annual Police Review

In an effort to provide more targeted education to police agencies across Pennsylvania, we have begun an annual review of random crash cases from the prior year. The objective is to provide agency specific results via PCIT, as well as overall results to the TRPAs so they may follow-up with agencies as needed. This year's review has recently come to a close and the findings are below.

Of the 3,516 cases reviewed from 2024, 1,780 were found to have errors. During the review process, analysts examine designated fields related to common issues, while also flagging any additional fields that may warrant further attention.

The following is a breakdown of each category that was misidentified, from most to least. Please go to [PCIT](#) to conduct a search for your agency's specific results. If your agency has yet to establish access to PCIT, please send an email to [pcithelp@pa.gov](mailto:pcithelp@pa.gov) for assistance.

- 669 cases (37.5%) incorrect vehicle position
- 608 cases (34.1%) incorrect harmful events page fields, specifically including Crash Description, Relation to Roadway, Unit Events, Driver Action, and Prime Factor
- 426 cases (23.9%) incorrect intersection type
- 312 cases (17.5%) incorrect travel lane
- 304 cases (17.0%) incorrect direction of travel
- 275 cases (15.4%) incorrect GPS
- 219 cases (12.3%) incorrect movement
- 161 cases (9.0%) incorrect special location

With the annual findings in mind, the [Open-Book Knowledge Skills Quiz](#) located on the PennDOT website will be updated to include some of the common issues encountered when reviewing the results each year.

## Working Together



### Classifying an E-Bike

Traffic incidents involving e-bikes have increased substantially over the past few years. This includes class 4 e-bikes which are classified in the crash reporting system as motor vehicles. Class 4 e-bikes, sometimes called an e-moto, are considered motorcycles. Class 4 e-bikes may or may not have pedals and have an electric motor with 750 watts or higher and speeds of 28 mph or greater.

Class 1, 2 and 3 e-bikes should be coded as a "Non-Motorist" with a non-motorist type of "bicycle" and Non-Motorist Power of "Electric". Please include the class of e-bike in the narrative, if known. The class of an e-bike can typically be found on the frame near the cranks or head tube. This location is where manufacturers affix a permanent label with the class number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage, plus maker details.

Class 4 e-bikes should be coded as "Motor Vehicle in Transit" with a Vehicle Type of "Motorcycle". Include the brand and model in the narrative. If the e-bike does not have a VIN, please include the serial number.

If a class 1, 2, or 3 e-bike is involved in a crash on a public roadway, and there are no motor vehicles in transit, the crashes would be non-reportable.

If a class 4 e-bike (with or without pedals) is involved in a crash, regardless of the presence of another motor vehicle, and results in an injury or enough damage that the e-bike is inoperable, then the crash would be REPORTABLE.

## Understanding Crash Terms



### Hit-And-Run vs. Phantom Unit

A **hit-and-run** is when a driver hits another vehicle, person, or piece of property and then flees the scene without stopping to provide their personal information.

**Example:** Unit 1 entered an intersection after stopping at the four way stop and acknowledging clearance. Unit 2 failed to stop at the four way stop and collided with Unit 1 in the center of the intersection. Unit 2 then fled the scene without stopping to provide their information.

#### How to code a hit and run:

- Unit Type = "Hit and Run Vehicle"
- Complete all driver data with unknowns and 9's.
- Enter whichever Harmful Event coincides with what the hit and run vehicle struck.
- Complete the Contributing Factor for the unit. (At least 1 contributing factor is required for a Hit and Run Vehicle.)
- Complete all remaining applicable fields.

A **phantom vehicle** is one that causes injury, death or damage without any physical contact. This can include pedestrians. There should be evidence or witness statements to corroborate a phantom vehicle.

**Example:** Unit 1 was traveling on the interstate in the right lane. Unit 2 cut across the right lane from the left lane to reach the exit ramp. Unit 1 then slammed on their breaks and swerved in order to avoid hitting Unit 2. Unit 1 then spun out of control hitting a guard rail. Several witnesses stopped to assist the driver of Unit 1 and reported the accident as being caused by a phantom vehicle.

**How to code a phantom vehicle:**

- Unit Type = "Phantom Vehicle"
- Do not include any of the Driver data since this unit had no harmful events in the crash.
- Enter "00 = No Harmful Event" as the only harmful event for this unit.
- Complete the Contributing Factor for the unit. (At least 1 contributing factor is required for a Phantom Unit.)
- Complete all remaining applicable fields.

**QUIZ: Relation to Roadway**

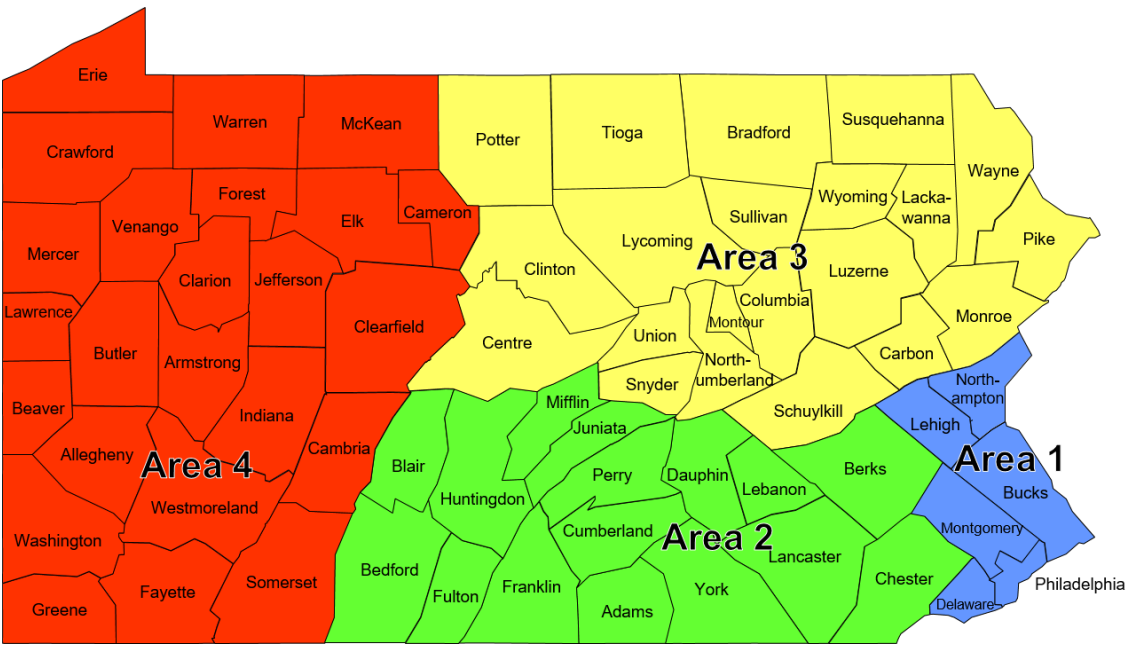
**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

Be sure to save the links below to your favorites for easy access!

[Police Crash Reporting Tools](#)

[Current AA600 Form](#)

**Traffic Records Program Administrator Area Map (TRPA)**



- Area 1:** Gordon Beck (215-219-8575) [gbeck@hsnetwork.org](mailto:gbeck@hsnetwork.org)
- Area 2:** Bob Wagner (610-334-4158) [rwagner@hsnetwork.org](mailto:rwagner@hsnetwork.org)
- Area 3:** Rick Leymeister (570-516-7881) [rleymeister@hsnetwork.org](mailto:rleymeister@hsnetwork.org)
- Area 4:** Michael Ragan (412-327-9488) [mragan@hsnetwork.org](mailto:mragan@hsnetwork.org)



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-pdleadhelp@pa.gov](mailto:ra-pdleadhelp@pa.gov).

