

Date: August 25, 1999

To: District Directors
Attn: District System Planning and Operations Section

From: Pete F. Rusch,
State Traffic Engineer

Subject: Statewide Crash Rates

The definition of a "reportable crash" changed starting January 1, 1996. For a Property Damage Only crash, the reporting threshold was raised from \$500 to \$1,000 to "any one person's property". Government-owned property changed to \$1,000 for government-owned vehicles, and remained at \$200 for all other government-owned property, such as traffic control devices.

This change in the threshold most likely, contributed to the decline in property damaged crashes (and therefore, total crashes) as compared to prior years. For example, when 1996 is compared to 1995, statewide fatal crashes are down from 655 to 631, injury crashes were 4.3% lower, property damages crashes were 16.3% lower and the total crashes were 12.7% lower.

The Table I lists the Wisconsin statewide crash rates for 1994-1998. These rates are expressed as crashes per 100 million vehicle-miles. The vehicle miles have been provided by the Division of Planning and Budget and the crashes are from the Accident File which is maintained by the Division of Motor Vehicles. The rates do not include non-reportable crashes (<\$1000).

Table II includes the 1994-1998 crash rates for the same highway classifications, as Table I, but is computed excluding hit deer crashes. Please note that this rate is just additional information and is being made available upon request. The official rates will be the ones shown in Table I, which includes the deer hit crashes.

All the crashes that have happened on both urban STH and city streets have been combined into a single category called Urban Streets.

Table I

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE AVERAGE CRASH RATES

	<u>RURAL INTERSTATE</u>			<u>URBAN INTERSTATE</u>		
	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI
1994	89	.5	20	130	.3	41
1995	85	.4	21	107	.2	35
1996	82	.5	21	103	.2	35
1997	76	.5	19	107	.2	35
1998	71	.4	18	101	.4	33

	<u>RURAL STH</u>			<u>URBAN STREETS</u>			<u>COUNTY TRUNKS</u>		
	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI
1994	222	1.8	57	350	.5	117	449	3.7	110
1995	210	1.8	54	365	.6	121	376	3.2	94
1996	195	1.9	54	355	.6	125	338	3.0	95
1997	181	1.8	51	313	.6	111	342	2.9	96
1998	169	1.7	49	293	.5	107	315	3.3	90

Table II

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE AVERAGE CRASH RATES
DEER ACCIDENTS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

	<u>RURAL INTERSTATE</u>			<u>URBAN INTERSTATE</u>		
	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI
1994	66	.5	20	126	.3	41
1995	66	.4	20	104	.2	34
1996	64	.5	20	100	.2	35
1997	57	.5	18	104	.2	35
1998	51	.4	17	98	.4	33

	<u>RURAL STH</u>			<u>URBAN STREETS</u>			<u>COUNTY TRUNKS</u>		
	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI	TOTAL	FATAL	NFI
1994	140	1.8	54	345	.5	117	254	3.6	106
1995	136	1.8	52	359	.6	121	219	3.1	91
1996	132	1.9	53	349	.6	125	214	3.0	91
1997	122	1.7	49	307	.6	111	219	2.9	93
1998	111	1.6	47	288	.5	107	193	3.3	87