

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Contributing Factors are the investigator's opinion of the factor(s) or condition(s) that contributed to the crash.

They are NOT:

- ▶ A traffic charge or law violation
- ▶ Intended to document the sequence of events that occurred during a crash

UP TO 3 CONTRIBUTING FACTORS AND 2 MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED FACTORS MAY BE SELECTED FOR EACH UNIT INVOLVED. ALL FACTORS MUST BE DESCRIBED THE NARRATIVE.

When would a crash report NOT have a contributing factor?

- ▶ Investigator does not know what happened
- ▶ No drivers or witness to talk to
- ▶ Evidence is insufficient to determine what caused the crash.

If the investigator has an opinion on what happened but there is not an accompanying contributing factor code that matches the opinion, then 98 – Other (Explain in Narrative) should be selected. This should be used sparingly.

The investigator should classify by priority, for each unit, the contributing factors that contribute the most to the crash.

REQUIRED FORMAT

Contributing		
25	29	20

FACTOR 1: List the factor that primarily contributed to the crash.

FACTOR 2: List the factor that was an additional contributor in the crash.

FACTOR 3: List the factor that was a secondary contributor in the crash.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Determining Contributing Factors:

- ▶ Observe the involved vehicle(s), roadway, weather, and surroundings
- ▶ Ask driver(s) and witnesses for information: *“Can you tell me what happened?”*
- ▶ Determine if there is any video footage you can utilize from:
 - Nearby businesses
 - Vehicles with dash cameras (particularly large truck tractors)
 - Roadway monitoring cameras



Interview Tips:

- ▶ Talk to people individually (one-on-one)
- ▶ Ask them to explain what happened again. *“I want to make sure I understand what happened, can you walk me through what happened again?”*
- ▶ Do not ask leading or yes/no questions.
- ▶ Ask if you can video the witness statement rather than having them write it down; people will often verbally provide more detail.

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