

Title: An overview of traffic crashes involving public safety service vehicles, Ohio, 2016-2018

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Introduction

The Ohio Department of Public Safety collects data from traffic crashes in Ohio in the Electronic Crash System (ECS). This study was an overview of Ohio traffic crashes involving public safety service vehicles from 2016 to 2018.

Objective

To compare and contrast traffic incidents involving emergency medical services (EMS), fire, and law enforcement vehicles on various crash-contributing factors.

Methods

2016-2018 data were pulled from ECS on January 25, 2019. The extracted data included information on weather conditions, road conditions, crash location, driver/unit error, driver distraction, injury severity, fatality, and whether the incident involved an emergent or non-emergent response. Data were aggregated by type of public safety service vehicle.

Results

From 2016 to 2018, 7,959 traffic incidents involved public safety service vehicles. The majority of fatalities were associated with EMS vehicles (53%) and involved EMS driver fault (75%). All types of public safety service vehicles incurred the majority of their crashes in clear weather conditions, on dry road conditions, at non-intersections, and during non-emergent responses.

Conclusion

The results of this study will inform the Ohio Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services of the frequency and severity of traffic crashes involving public safety service vehicles. The long-term goal of this study is to raise awareness of the issue, to improve the safe operation of public safety service vehicles, and to reduce the frequency of these crashes.