

Georgia Department of Public Safety Policy Manual

SUBJECT CRASH REVIEW BOARDS	POLICY NUMBER 17.15
DISTRIBUTION ALL PERSONNEL	DATE REVISED 7/1/2015

17.15.1 Purpose

The purpose of this board is to assess the circumstances of the crash and assign a determination.

17.15.2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department of Public Safety that appropriate Troop/Region Commanders and Division Directors are responsible for carrying out the procedures outlined in this policy regarding crash review boards.

17.15.3 Crash Review Board Determinations

- A. For purposes of this policy, “emergency” shall mean when responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.
 - 1. Emergency Crashes
 - a. Emergency Preventable Crash: is one in which the driver was engaged in emergency activities and the driver was at fault or the driver could have prevented the crash by utilizing defensive driving techniques.
 - b. Emergency Non-Preventable Crash: is one in which the driver was engaged in emergency activities and the driver was not at fault or one that could not have reasonably been prevented by use of defensive driving techniques and the circumstances of the situation.
 - 2. Non-Emergency Crashes
 - a. Non-Emergency Preventable Crash: the driver was not engaged in emergency activities and the driver was at fault or the driver could have prevented the crash by utilizing defensive driving techniques.
 - b. Non-Emergency Non-Preventable Crash: the driver was not engaged in emergency activities and the driver was not at fault or the driver could not have prevented the crash by utilizing defensive driving techniques.
- B. Crash Review Board determinations shall be entered into the Employee Tracking System (ETS) by the appropriate Troop/Region/Unit.

17.15.4 Georgia State Patrol Crash Review Board

- A. There are hereby created nine Crash Review Boards in the State: one for each of the nine Troops. This will provide for decentralization of the review of crashes involving Department vehicles in each section of the State. In order to provide for uniformity in each review, members of the Boards are governed by this policy.
- B. The Crash Review Board for each of the nine Troops shall consist of the Troop Commander or designee, their one assistant, one NCO and one TFC. This Board shall review all Departmental vehicle crashes involving personnel under their command.
- C. Troop Commanders will review incident reports involving patrol car damage. Disciplinary recommendations shall be forwarded to the Commanding Officer.
- D. Damage caused by the execution of the Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) and/or box-in method in the line of duty, shall not go before the Crash Review Board.
- E. Crash Review Board determinations will be made following section 17.15.3.
- F. In the event a Troop Commander or either of their assistants is involved in a crash, some member of the Crash Review Board of the same rank in the adjoining Troop will be asked to sit in to review the crash.
- G. Each Troop headquarters shall convene a crash review board for the purpose of reviewing the circumstances involved in Departmental crashes.
- H. The nine Troop Crash Review Boards shall meet at least every 60 days.
- I. The reviewing Troop Commander or the member chairing the Crash Review Board shall designate a specific review date and shall notify the employee involved in a crash of the review date. The employee shall be entitled to appear before the review board if so desired.
- J. Determinations shall be:
 - 1. Forwarded to the member's respective adjutant or the section/unit director, and
 - 2. Described on a DPS 538 form and forwarded to the respective section/unit director.
- K. The Commanding Officer will determine whether to accept or reject the determination of the Crash Review Board.

17.15.5 Crash Review Board for the Motor Carrier Compliance Division

- A. There are hereby created ten crash review boards in the State: one for each region. This will provide decentralization of the review of crashes involving Department vehicles. In order to provide for uniformity in each review, members of the Boards are governed by this policy.
- B. The Crash Review Board for each of the ten Regions shall consist of the Region Commander, Region Lieutenant and two Sergeants. The Board shall review all Departmental vehicle crashes involving personnel under their command.

- C. In the event a Region Captain or Lieutenant is involved in a crash, a member of equal rank from another Region will be asked to sit in for the review.
- D. Crash Review Board determinations will be made following section 17.15.3.
- E. Each Region shall convene a crash review board for the purpose of reviewing the circumstances involved in Departmental vehicle crashes.
- F. The ten Region Crash Review Boards will meet at least every 60 days.
- G. The reviewing Region Commander or the member chairing the Crash Review Board shall designate a specific review date and shall notify the employee involved in a crash of the review date. The employee shall be entitled to appear before the review board if so desired.
- H. Determinations shall be forwarded to the member's respective Region Commander or the section/Region director on DPS Form 538.
- I. The Commanding Officer of Motor Carrier Compliance, will determine whether to accept or reject the determination of the Crash Review Board.
- J. All crashes will be investigated by a uniform member of the Georgia State Patrol Division of the Department of Public Safety. All crashes will be recorded on the form DOT 523.

17.15.6 Capitol Police Division Crash Review Board

- A. There will be a crash review board created to review each crash that involves a member of the division. In order to provide uniformity in each review, members of the board are governed by this policy.
- B. The Crash Review Board shall consist of the Division Director, Division Captain and one uniform officer of equal rank of the member involved.
- C. In the event a Division Director or Captain is involved in a crash, a member of equal rank from the uniform division of the Georgia State Patrol will be asked to sit in for the review.
- D. Crash Review Board determinations will be made following section 17.15.3.
- E. The Crash Review Board will meet within 60 days of a crash involving a division member. The reviewing Division Commander or the member chairing the Crash Review Board shall designate a specific review date and shall notify the employee involved in a crash of the review date. The employee shall be entitled to appear before the review board if so desired.
- F. Determinations shall be forwarded to the Lt. Colonel's Office on DPS form 538.
- G. The Division Director will determine whether to accept or reject the determination of the Crash Review Board.
- H. All crashes will be investigated by a uniform member of the Georgia State Patrol Division of the Department of Public Safety. All crashes will be recorded on form DOT 523.

17.15.7 Crashes Involving Departmental Vehicles

- A. The Troop/Region/Unit Officer will prepare a synopsis of the crash and an explanation of the board's determination. This memorandum, along with the original report, Crash Review Board determination, and all related attachments will be forwarded by the Troop/Region/Unit Officer to the respective adjutant/Division Director.
- B. If the driver of the Department vehicle is assigned to another Troop, the reviewing Troop Officer shall be responsible for forwarding the original copy of the complete crash package to that employee's Troop Commander. The employee's Troop/Region/Unit Commander or one of the Assistant Troop/Region Unit Commanders shall prepare all relevant information for consideration by the Crash Review Board where the member involved in the crash is assigned. The Crash Review Board's determination shall be forwarded to the respective adjutant, according to paragraph A above.
- C. If the driver of the Departmental vehicle is assigned to a Special Unit/Task Force/Headquarters or any assignment other than a field troop, the crash shall be worked as if the member worked in the Troop where the crash occurred. The final determination of the Troop Crash Review Board shall be forwarded to the member's adjutant/Division Director and copied to their supervisor, according to paragraph A above.