

Motor Vehicle Crashes Annual Report



2023

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

In 2023, the Richardson Police Department (RPD) had 19 motor vehicle crashes that involved police personnel who were on-duty or in a city vehicle when the crash occurred. The following chart indicates the primary cause and disposition of each crash, corrective actions for employees where applicable and whether the employee was a sworn peace officer or a civilian.

Primary Cause Factor	Number of Crashes	At Fault	Not At Fault	Corrective Action(s)	Sworn	Civilian
Backed without Safety	3	2	1	Supervisory Counseling	3	0
Changed Lane - Unsafe	1	1	0	Supervisory Counseling	1	0
Driver Inattention	3	2	1	Supervisory Counseling	3	0
Failed to Yield ROW - Emergency Vehicle	3	0	3	N/A	3	0
Failed to Yield ROW – Turning Left	2	0	2	N/A	2	0
Failed to Control Speed	5	2	3	Supervisory Counseling	5	0
Improper Turn – Wide Right	1	1	0	N/A	1	0
Under Influence - Alcohol	1	0	1	N/A	1	0
Totals =	19	8	11	Sworn / Civilian Status=	19	0

Involved in Crash				
Age	Male Sworn	Female Sworn	Male Civilian	Female Civilian
20 - 35	10	1	0	0
36 -- 50	6	1	0	0
50 +	1	0	0	0
Totals	17	2	0	0

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The below is a summary of statistical data compiled from the 19 motor vehicle crashes involving RPD personnel while operating City vehicles during the 2023 calendar year.

- There were 19 crashes and 19 involved sworn personnel. There were 19 crashes in 2022 .

- The percentage of At-Fault crashes in 2023 is 42%. In 2022 47% were at-fault, and 57% in 2021. This indicates a three-year decline in the percentage of at-fault crashes.
- Out of the 19 crashes, 17 were male personnel and two were female There were no crashes involving non-sworn personnel operating a city-owned vehicle.
- Fifty-eight (58)% of crashes involved personnel between the ages of 20 - 35 years; Thirty-seven (37)% of crashes involved personnel between the ages of 36 - 50 years. Five (5)% of crashes involved personnel that was over the age of 50.
- In 2023, one officer was involved in three crashes, one of which was determined to be at-fault. In 2022, there was one officer involved in multiple crashes. In 2021 there were three involved in multiple crashes.
- Ten crashes took place during daylight hours and nine during hours of darkness.
- Of the ten crashes that took place during daylight, three were At-Fault (30%). This compares to a 33 % At-Fault rate in 2022 and a 45.5% At- Fault rate in 2021.
- Of the nine crashes that took place during darkness, four were At- Fault (44%). This compares to a 80% At-Fault rate in 2022 and a 70% At- Fault rate in 2021.
- June and September have the greatest number of crashes in each month with three crashes.
- The day of the week with the highest number of crashes was Tuesday, with five crashes on this day of the week.
- The Patrol shift involved in the most vehicle crashes was Night Shift with ten crashes.
- The Patrol shift with the highest At-Fault rate was Night Shift being responsible 57% of the time, followed by Day Watch at 43%.
- There was one crash that resulted in an arrest of a DWI suspect in 2023.

TRENDS

The following are trends identified during the annual review of Motor Vehicle Crashes by RPD personnel in 2023.

- Fail to Control Speed is the leading cause of crashes with five out of 19. Of those five two involved employees and three involved third parties.
- Nine crashes occurred on Day watch, ten crashes occurred on Night watch.
- At-Fault Driver Inattention attributed to 25% of the total At-Fault crashes in 2023 compared with 11% in 2022.
- Backed without Safety At-Fault occurrences have decreased in the past few years, with four in 2021, three in 2022 and two in 2023.
- Three cause factors accounted for 75% of the At-Fault employee crashes in 2023: Backed Without Safety (2), Driver Inattention (2), and Failed to Control Speed (2).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT & RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are opportunities for improvement and recommendations in motor vehicle crashes.


- Provide comprehensive training on safe backing procedures, including the use of mirrors, backup cameras, and verbal communication with other employees in the vicinity.
- Educate employees about the dangers of driver inattention and the importance of maintaining focus while operating a police vehicle.
- Emphasize the importance of pulling over, when applicable, to a safe location before engaging in any non-driving related activities.
- Provide specialized training on high-speed driving techniques and vehicle dynamics to enhance officers' ability to control their vehicles in challenging conditions. Training should include awareness of dangers related to speed.

SUMMARY

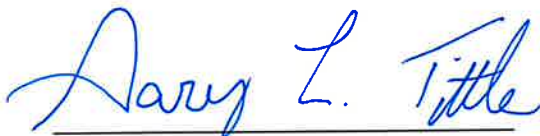
As in previous years, driver inattention, failure to control speed, and not being aware of your surroundings continue to be leading factors in At-Fault collisions for employees. The demands of multi-tasking while behind the wheel have become evident but our officers must focus more of their attention on the matter of operating an emergency vehicle. Driving instructors and supervisors will continue to emphasize the importance of driver awareness and utilizing technologies that are becoming standard in our fleet vehicles to promote safe driving habits and practices for our staff. The Department's primary consideration is and will continue to be for the safety of its citizens and the police personnel who serve the community.



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