

Training for Law Enforcement on Reporting Serious Injuries as Defined in the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) 4th Edition



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



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The Challenge

- An estimated 2.5 million people are injured in motor vehicle crashes on our roadways every year
- Accurately and consistently collecting data on serious injury crashes helps invest in countermeasures to prevent them
- The Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC), 4th Edition sets the newly-required standard for classifying and reporting injuries on crash reports
- This training is intended to help you identify the seven types of suspected serious injuries for the crash report in accordance with the MMUCC, 4th Edition guideline

MMUCC, 4th Edition – Suspected Serious Injury

- A suspected serious injury is any injury other than fatal which results in one or more of the following:
 - Unconsciousness
 - Paralysis
 - Significant burns
 - Broken or distorted extremities
 - Crush injuries
 - Severe lacerations
 - Skull, chest, or abdominal injuries

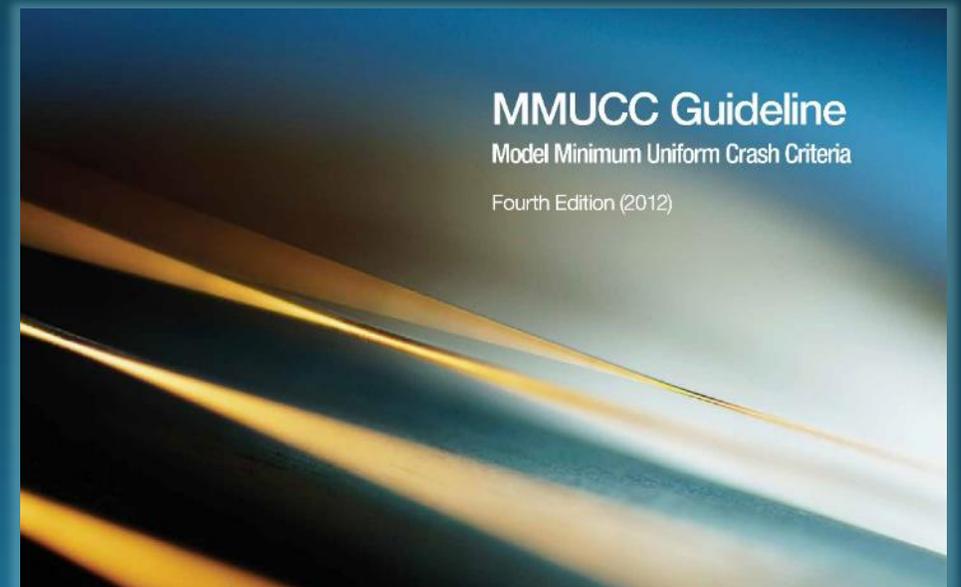


Photo Credit: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Unconsciousness

If a victim is breathing but not awake and not talking, they're unconscious

Unconsciousness only qualifies as a suspected serious injury if the victim remains unconscious when taken from the scene



Photo Credit: Federal Highway Administration

Paralysis

Paralysis qualifies as any loss of movement

If the victim is unwilling to move, that doesn't necessarily indicate paralysis

Confirm with EMS personnel that the victim is experiencing loss of movement



Photo Credit: Federal Highway Administration

Significant Burns

If someone has second- or third-degree burns on ten percent of their body, they're suffering from significant burns

Ten percent of their body is most of an extremity, or the majority of the chest or back

Signs of a second-degree burn generally include blisters, which may appear white or yellow

A third-degree burn appears charred and leathery

When in doubt, ask EMS personnel



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Biophoto Associates / Science Source
[Medical Images / Barry Slaven](#)

Broken or Distorted Extremities

The following indicate a suspected serious injury:

- The limb is deformed,
- You can see bone, or
- One arm or leg is visibly shorter than the other



Photo Credit: Federal Highway Administration

Crush Injuries

Crush injuries occur when part of the body is pinned or trapped and the victim cannot escape

Crush injuries can indicate significant internal damage



Photo Credit: Federal Highway Administration

Severe Laceration

A severe laceration is signified by exposure of underlying tissue and/or oozing and active bleeding

Some wounds, particularly head wounds, may bleed profusely, but that does not necessarily mean they are suspected serious injuries

If you are unsure, ask EMS



Skull, Chest, or Abdominal Injuries

A common symptom of a skull injury is the victim not interacting appropriately

- Victims can appear confused or act irrational or unusual

It's possible that they have a skull injury if you don't suspect they are:

- Under the influence of mind-altering substances, or
- Suffering from a medical condition such as diabetes

Look at the mechanisms of injury at the crash scene that might indicate a head injury, such as an impression on the windshield

As always, confer with EMS



Photo Credit (top): Federal Highway Administration
Photo Credit (lower left): Tony Freeman / Science Photo Library
Photo Credit (lower right): The Clausing Family

Skull, Chest, or Abdominal Injuries

Possible chest or abdominal injuries can be difficult to identify on scene, even for EMS personnel

If the victim has any of the following, they may be suffering from a suspected serious chest or abdominal injury:

- Obvious bruising, swelling, bleeding, or deformities of the chest or abdomen
- Bulging eyes
- Veins popping in the neck

As always the safety of the crash victim is your top priority

Do not remove clothing or move a victim for the sole purpose of data collection

When appropriate, ask EMS providers for assistance



Photo Credit (top): Federal Highway Administration
Photo Credits (lower left and right): Dr P. Marazzi / Science Source

MMUCC, 4th Edition – Suspected Serious Injury Review

- Now we know the signs and symptoms of suspected serious injuries:
 - Unconsciousness
 - Paralysis
 - Significant burns
 - Broken or distorted extremities
 - Crush injuries
 - Severe lacerations
 - Skull, chest, or abdominal injuries

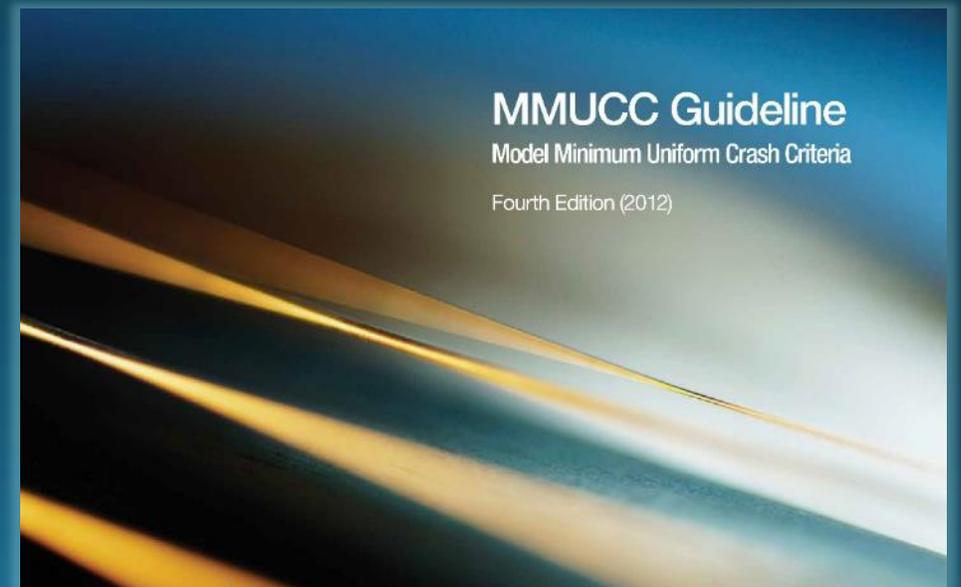


Photo Credit: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Conclusion

- We encourage you to make your best assessment about suspected serious injuries at the scene of a crash
- Consult with EMS professionals to make sure your injury assessment is accurate and consistent with the MMUCC, 4th Edition Guideline
- EMS professionals are valued partners with the law enforcement community and can provide important information about injury severity at the scene of a crash
 - They can help police officers record accurate, standardized classifications in their crash reports
 - When in doubt, ask EMS professionals; they stand ready to help



Photo Credit: Federal Highway Administration

Conclusion (continued)

- Crash reports are the only source of injury data that can be linked directly to the crash scene, so accurate and consistent injury classification is critically important
- The data we collect is used by safety professionals to improve transportation safety, reduce crashes, and save lives



For More Information

- Safety is the top priority at the Federal Highway Administration and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Visit us online:



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

safety.fhwa.dot.gov



nhtsa.dot.gov