

**Conover Police Department
Traffic Crash Analysis
Annual Report
2008**

This report contains information collected between January 01, 2008 and December 31, 2008 of all traffic crashes reported to the Patrol Division of the Conover Police Department. There were a total of 663 reported crashes during this time period. The types of crashes included: property damage only, hit and run crashes, traffic crashes involving personal injury, and/ or pedestrian. Traffic crashes in public vehicular areas were omitted. Traffic crashes during this time period accounted for approximately \$1,979,121 in property damage and 1,348 reported injuries. The types of injuries include: no visible sign but complaint of injury, class B – non-incapacitating, class A – incapacitating, and fatal.

An analysis of the intersections with the highest number of crashes shows that the intersections of 1st Ave S at 2nd Ave SW and 1st Ave S at 3rd St SE accounted for twelve (12) crashes at each intersection during this time period. There were three intersections that had nine (9) crashes that occurred. They were 1st St W at 1st Ave S, and 1st St W at Fourth Ave SW, and Boundary St SW at Old Conover Startown Rd. The next highest number of crashes occurred at the intersections of Emmanuel Church Rd at Thornburg Dr SE and Boundary St SW at Conover Blvd W each with eight (8) crashes each. The next highest number of crashes occurred at the intersections of Conover Blvd West at Northwest Blvd, and 1st St W at Section House Rd each with seven (7) crashes each. The criteria utilized by North Carolina Department of transportation to obtain this data were a minimum of 5 crashes within 150 feet of each intersection. Rear end, slow or stop was the leading causes of crashes following angle or sideswipe crashes at the intersections listed above.

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Statistical information was obtained through the NCDOT TEASS software utilized by the Conover Police Department for reporting purposes only. The following information concerning traffic crashes within the City of Conover during this time period was obtained:

<u>Weather Conditions</u>		<u>Road Conditions</u>		<u>Crash Types</u>	
Clear	77.5%	Dry	83.1%	Rear end	27.90%
Cloudy	12.8%	Wet	15.2%	Angle	19.61%
Rain	9.2%	Ice	.4%		
Snow	.2%	Water	.5%		
Fog, etc	.3%	(standing, moving)			

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Time of Day

0600-0659	3.3 %
0700-0759	5.3%
0800-0859	3.6%
0900-0959	3.5%
1000-1059	5.1%
1100-1159	5.3%
1200-1259	6.0%
1300-1359	5.1%
1400-1459	7.5%
1500-1559	10.4%
1600-1659	10.7%
1700-1759	9.4%
1800-1859	5.1%
1900-1959	3.3%

Day of the Week

Monday	17.2%
Tuesday	15.4%
Wednesday	12.4%
Thursday	11.5%
Friday	14.0%
Saturday	14.5%
Sunday	15.1%

*Times under 3% were excluded. They totaled 11.9% of the total crashes.

Month

January	8.1%
February	8.3%
March	8.4%
April	8.1%
May	9.5%
June	7.4%
July	7.7%
August	8.9%
September	7.7%
October	8.7%
November	8.6%
December	8.4%

Age Group

15-19	8.1%
20-24	9.0%
25-34	17.8%
35-44	16.4%
45-54	14.9%
55-59	8.6%
60-64	4.8%
65-74	5.2%
75 and older	3.6%

Recommended Enforcement / Preventive Actions

Officers at the Conover Police Department continue to enforce speed limit violations, stop light/sign violations, and safe movement violations in an attempt to reduce the number of traffic crashes that occur within the city limits of Conover. Enforcement is not the only tool to be utilized. An increase in visibility at the intersections and sections of road that experience the highest number of crashes would also help reduce the number of crashes. Most crashes appear to be occurring during the late afternoon to early evening hours. A recommendation to help address this occurrence would be to utilize maximum staffing by scheduling additional manpower between the hours 1100 and 1900. The use of drone vehicles and the speed trailer should also be used to help address these issues. When the Patrol Division is at full strength the goal of each supervisor should be to adjust schedules so that more emphasis can be placed on traffic enforcement during peak times of traffic crashes as indicated in this report.

Proactive Recommendations

In addition to the above recommendation(s), patrol officers should place emphasis on becoming more involved with educating the public about safe driving habits. Drivers between the ages of 15-24 years old, continue to account for a significant amount of crashes in Conover. The leading cause of those crashes is inattention. Establishing information checkpoints to help educate the motoring public about better driving skills should help in reduction in crashes. In addition to the information checkpoints, media sources should be utilized to get the information out about safe training and the patrol officers should seek additional training that would better assist in their efforts to effectively enforce the traffic laws of the State of North Carolina. Getting additional officers certified in the use of radar and Intoxilyzer certified should be a top priority. In addition, additional radar units should be purchased to equip all radar operators with radar in their patrol vehicle. An increase in this area of training would have positive impact on reducing the number of traffic crashes that occur on a daily basis within the city limits of Conover.