

TrafAccWord10/03

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT EVIDENCE GUIDELINES

This is a comprehensive though not all-encompassing list of evidence in addition to that requested in the Discovery Guidelines. We can begin analysis as soon as materials are received. The more information you can provide the better and more convincing the reconstruction will be.

PLEASE OBTAIN ORIGINALS OF ALL PHOTOGRAPHS (No matter what they cost. They will pay for themselves.)

COPY BACK AND FRONT OF PAGES OF POLICE REPORT.

ALL ACCIDENT REPORTS ARE INCOMPLETE. Provide the following if available:

1. Accident report with all supplements, including: A) "Officer's report regarding..." or equivalent; B) Motor carrier inspection report; C) MAIT report.
2. For each vehicle, including trailers, provide State license number and **EXACT** model of vehicle; e.g., 1986 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera Brougham V-6, 4-door sedan.
3. For each vehicle provide the VIN (Vehicle Identification Number); e.g., 1G234567891234567. This is important. 99% of vehicle descriptions are inadequate; e.g., '91 Chev. 2-door could describe eight entirely distinct models.
4. Are the vehicles available for inspection? Where?
5. Describe any suspected defect or unusual condition of any vehicle or location.
6. Describe any known evidence at accident scene; e.g., skids, gouges, damage not shown on accident report.
7. Describe any changes to scene since accident.
8. Were all appropriate safety devices used; e.g., helmets, seatbelts, lights, brakes, and horns? Is there any question about their effectiveness?
9. If there is no accident report, search for other reports; e.g., Fire Department, paramedics, park rangers.
10. If no accident report of any kind, furnish: A) Date and time of accident; B) Street address (name, block, intersection, cross street, landmarks, etc.); C) Location (points of impact of each vehicle and points of rest; measurements; diagrams; witnesses' statements).

Provide repairs, bills, or estimates for each involved vehicle.