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REMOTE NOT IN TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE HYPERTHERMIA INVESTIGATION

CASE NUMBER - IN09030
LOCATION - FLORIDA
VEHICLE - 2007 FORD EDGE SEL
INCIDENT DATE - July 2009

Submitted:

May 14, 2010



Contract Number: DTNH22-07-C-00044

Prepared for:

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
National Center for Statistics and Analysis
Washington, D.C. 20590-0003

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The incident investigation process is an inexact science which requires that physical evidence such as skid marks, vehicular damage measurements, and occupant contact points be coupled with the investigator's expert knowledge and experience of vehicle dynamics and occupant kinematics in order to determine the pre-incident, incident, and post-incident movements of involved vehicles and occupants.

Because each incident is a unique sequence of events, generalized conclusions cannot be made concerning the crashworthiness performance of the involved vehicle(s) or their safety systems.

Technical Report Documentation Page

1. <i>Report No.</i> IN09030		2. <i>Government Accession No.</i>		3. <i>Recipient's Catalog No.</i>	
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15. <i>Supplementary Notes</i> Remote Not in Transport Hyperthermia Investigation involving a 2007 Ford Edge SEL and a 5-month-old male child who had been left unattended in the vehicle.					
16. <i>Abstract</i> This report covers a remote investigation of a Not In Traffic Surveillance Hyperthermia incident that involved a 2007 Ford Edge SEL. The focus of this case was the circumstances surrounding the death of a 5-month-old, male child who had been left unattended in the vehicle. The incident occurred in Florida, in July 2009, in the parking lot of a three story office building, and happened between the hours of 0830 and 1700. The driver (mother) of the vehicle normally drops off her infant at daycare. The mother forgot to drop off her infant and preceded to work with the child still seated in a rear-facing child safety seat (CSS). The mother stated that after working all day without taking a lunch break, she went to her vehicle and found her child unconscious, unresponsive, and very hot. The child was still seated and secured in the CSS. The first responders determined that the infant was deceased.					
17. <i>Key Words</i> Not in Traffic Surveillance Hyperthermia			18. <i>Distribution Statement</i> General Public		
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This incident was brought to our attention by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on July 30, 2009 through an internet news article. This investigation was assigned on September 10, 2009. This incident involved a 2007 Ford Edge SEL and a 5-month-old male child who had been left unattended in the vehicle. The incident occurred in July 2009, between the hours of 0830 and 1700, in Florida and was investigated by the city police department. The focus of this investigation was the circumstances surrounding the death of a child who had been left unattended in the vehicle. The police completed three reports. The first was entitled an Offense Incident Report, the second was entitled an Identification Section Supplement, and the third was a Detective Supplement Report. These reports were not submitted to the state. A remote investigation was conducted based on all available information. This report is based on the above mentioned police reports, scene and vehicle photographs obtained from the investigating police agency, and the evaluation of the available evidence.

INCIDENT CIRCUMSTANCES

Incident Environment: The incident occurred on the east side of a parking lot, north of a three story office building. The building and parking areas occupied an entire city block with the building located in the southern part, and there was a large parking lot north of the building (Figure 1). There were parking stalls on both the south and east sides of the building. The Ford was parked in the east aisle of the southern section of the northern parking lot. The vehicle was parked heading in an east-northeast orientation the eastern side of the isle and was situated midway between the north and south boundaries of this section (Figures 2 through 4). During the day of the incident, the light condition was daylight, the atmospheric condition was clear, and the parking lot pavement was dry. The site of the incident was urban commercial. The INCIDENT DIAGRAM is on page 5.

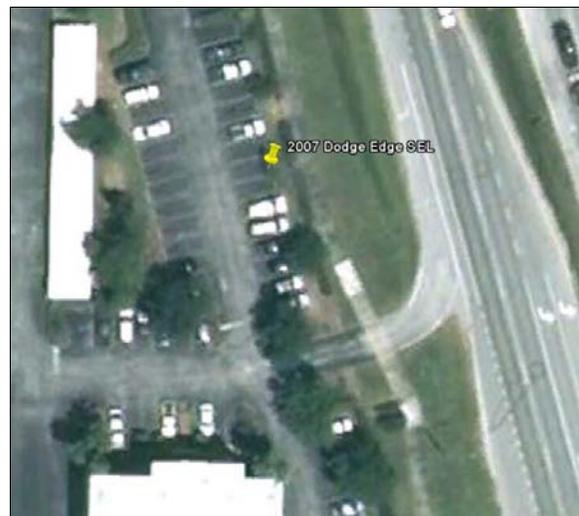


Figure 1: Overhead view of bank building and surrounding parking lot where child occupant was found deceased inside Ford

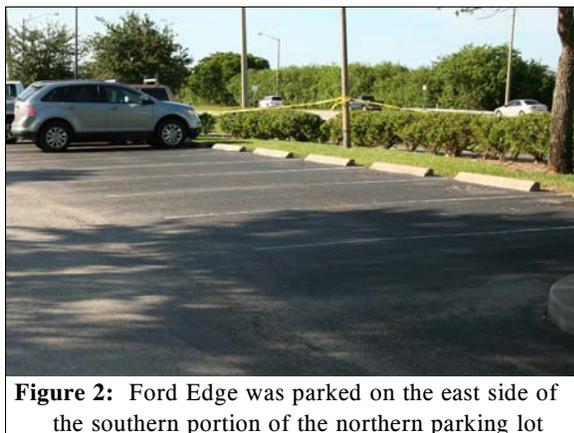


Figure 2: Ford Edge was parked on the east side of the southern portion of the northern parking lot



Figure 3: Northeastward view of Ford parked on eastern side of northern parking lot

Pre-Incident: According to the detective supplemental report, the driver (mother) normally follows a similar routine. She drops off her 5-year-old child at pre-school and then drops off her 5-month-old at daycare. The driver stated, “We stayed home yesterday. I think that got me off of my schedule.” The mother forgot to drop off her infant and preceded to work with the child still seated in a rear-facing child safety seat (CSS). The police investigation revealed that there was a square mirror in a padded frame attached to the adjustable head rest above the second row left seating position (Figure 5). The mirror was intended to enable the driver to view the seating position from the vehicle’s interior rearview mirror. The driver indicated that normally after dropping off the infant, she gets into her car and checks the visor and then drives to work. She stated, “I do that every day. Every day I do that. I’m compulsive about it. I’m so paranoid about it.” The driver exited the vehicle after parking at her place of work without noticing that the child was still inside the vehicle. The driver arrived at work around 0830 hours. During questioning the driver stated, “I don’t know what happened. I got off my schedule.” When asked by the police, “How do you think you could forget him in there?,” the driver made statements to the affect that inattention and the change in her routine played a roll.

Incident: At approximately 1700 hours, after working all day without taking a lunch break, the driver indicated that she entered her vehicle, looked in the rearview mirror, and “saw him”. Her child was unconscious, unresponsive, and very hot. The child was still seated and secured in the child safety seat (Figure 6). A co-worker who had worked most of the day with the driver, was also going to his vehicle and witnessed the discovery. A passerby notified police.

Post-Incident: The investigating police agency was notified of the incident within 1 minute post-incident and responded to the scene. The police



Figure 4: East-northeast view of back surface of Ford



Figure 5: Second row of Ford showing booster CSS (foreground) normally used by driver’s 5-year-old and rear-facing CSS (background) in which deceased occupant was secured; Note: mirror attached to second row left head rest positioned designed to enable driver to observe infant child through windshield mounted rearview mirror



Figure 6: Rear-facing CSS secured in second row left position of Ford; deceased child is position in CSS but has been sanitized in this police photo

approached the vehicle and observed an infant still belted into its child seat. The child was blue in color and had dried vomit around his mouth. According to the Offense Incident Report, a police officer began to remove the infant and determined the child had the onset of lividity and rigor mortis. A police sergeant pronounced that the child was deceased and called for a Detective. Four days post-incident, the police parked the Ford at the police station in an attempt to replicate the scene events. A standard thermometer was placed on the edge of the rear-facing child seat and the temperature was measured at 0830 hours and at every hour thereafter up until 1530 hours. The observed temperatures are shown in the table below.

Time	°C	°F	Time	°C	°F	Time	°C	°F
0830	26.7	80	1130	44.4	112	1430	48.9	120*
0930	30.0	86	1230	48.9	120*	1530	48.9	120*
1030	38.9	102	1330	48.9	120*			

* 120 degrees Feherheit was the maximum temperature the thermometer could record.

National weather service data was obtained by the police for both the day of the incident and the day of the police thermometer test. According to the police detective supplementary report, on the day of the incident the temperature ranged from 27.8 °C to 32.2 °C (82 to 90 °F) during the hours 0900 to 1700, with the high temperature occurring at 1400 hours. The heat index was highest (100) at 1400 hours as well. On the day of the police thermometer test, the temperatures ranged from 26.1 °C to 31.7 °C (79 to 89 °F) during the same time period with the high temperature occurring 1500 hours. The heat index topped out at 97 at 1500 and 1600 hours.

Weather data for the date and pertinent times were obtained by this contractor from a nearby meteorological location and are presented in the table below.

Time	Temperature		Dew Point		Relative Humidity	Pressure mmHg	Heat Index	
	°C	°F	°C	°F			°C	°F
0753	27.8	82	23.9	75	79	29.98	31	89
0853	29.4	85	23.9	75	72	29.99	34	93
0953	28.9	84	21.7	71	65	29.99	32	89
1053	31.7	89	21.7	71	55	30.00	35	95
1153	31.7	89	23.9	75	63	30.00	37	99
1253	32.2	90	23.9	75	61	29.99	38	100
1353	31.7	89	23.3	74	61	29.97	37	98

Time	Temperature		Dew Point		Relative Humidity	Pressure mmHg	Heat Index	
	°C	°F	°C	°F			°C	°F
1453	31.7	89	22.8	73	59	29.96	36	97
1553	31.1	88	21.1	70	55	29.95	34	93
1653	30.6	87	20.6	69	55	29.96	33	91
1753	29.4	85	21.1	70	61	29.94	32	90

CASE VEHICLE

The 2007 Ford Edge SEL was a front wheel drive, 5-passenger, 4-door sport utility vehicle (VIN: 2FMDK38C67B-----) equipped with a 3.5-liter, V-6 engine and a 6-speed automatic transmission. The Ford was equipped with 4-wheel, anti-lock brakes with electronic brake force distribution, traction control, and electronic stability control, and the frontal air bags of this vehicle are certified by the manufacturer to be compliant to the Advanced Air Bag portion of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 208. The Ford was equipped with height adjustable seat belts, height adjustable head restraints for all positions, Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH) system features, and a tire pressure monitoring system. In addition, the vehicle was equipped with tinted windows which, according to one responding police officer, largely obscured the view of the second row seating areas (Figure 7). The Ford was towed and impounded. The police reports made no indication that the vehicle was configured with any system to detect/alert for the presence of a child left in the vehicle.



Figure 7: Left side of Ford showing tint to glazing of second row left window where deceased child occupant was seated

CASE VEHICLE SECOND ROW LEFT PASSENGER KINEMATICS

The second row left passenger of the Ford (5-month-old, male) was restrained in a rear-facing child safety seat which was secured by the vehicle’s lap-and-shoulder, safety belt system (Figure 8).

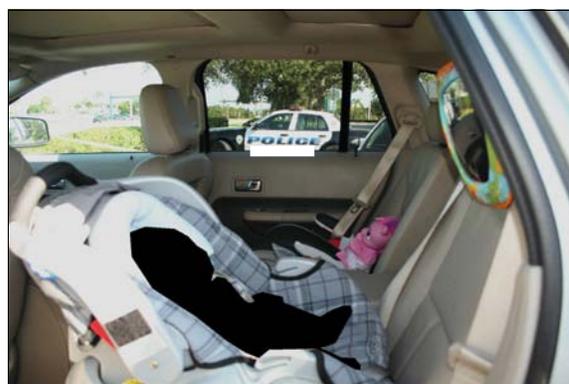
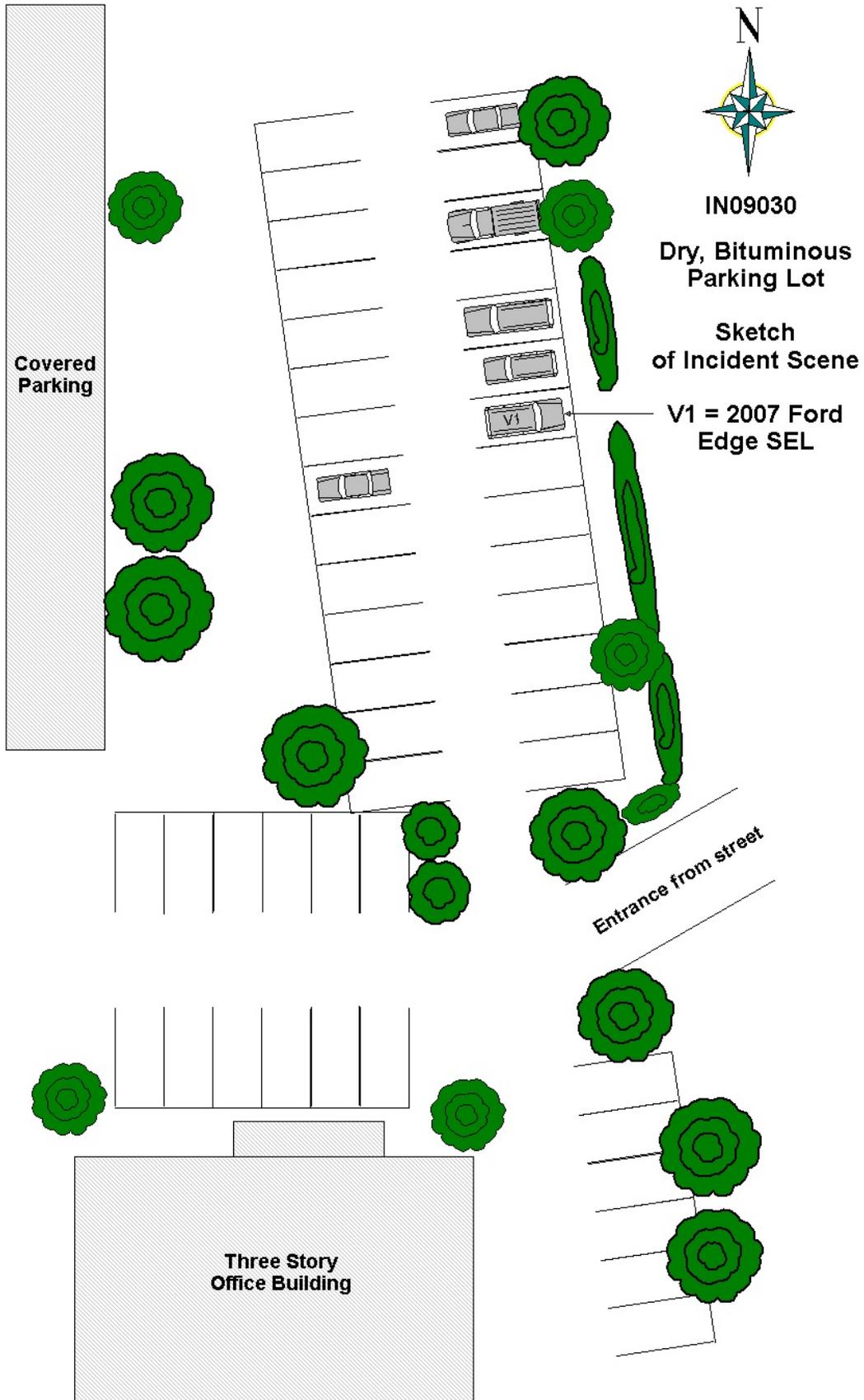


Figure 8: On-scene police photo showing deceased child (sanitized) inside rear-facing CSS located in second row left position of Ford

The infant passenger was pronounced dead at the scene 4 minutes after the incident was reported. The preliminary results of the autopsy that was conducted the following morning, indicated that the child died of heat exposure.





1. Case Number

IDENTIFICATION

2. Date of Crash ____ / ____ / ____

3. Time of Crash _____
Code reported military time of crash.

NOTE: Midnight = 2400
Unknown = 9999

AMBIENT CONDITIONS

4. Light Conditions

- Daylight
- Dark
- Dark but lighted
- Dawn
- Dusk
- Unknown

5. Atmospheric Conditions
(Select all that apply)

- Clear-No adverse conditions
- Cloudy
- Rain
- Snow
- Fog, Smog, Smoke
- Sleet, Hail (freezing rain or drizzle)
- Blowing Snow
- Severe Crosswinds
- Blowing Sand, Soil, Dirt
- Other (specify): _____
- Unknown

6. Temperature

- Below 0 degrees Celsius (Below 32 F)
- 1-10 degrees Celsius (33-50 F)
- >10-24 degrees Celsius (51-75 F)
- Over 24 degrees Celsius (Over 75 F)
- Unknown

SCENE INFORMATION

7. Type of area in which crash occurred
(Select all that apply)

- Single family residential
- Row houses/townhouses
- Multi family housing
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Rural
- Unknown

8. Driver exterior sightline obstructions
(Select all that apply)

- None
- Other vehicles
- Building
- Trees
- Shrubby
- Other (specify) _____
- Utility poles
- Signs
- Glare
- Unknown
- No driver present

9. Crash location

- Driveway
- Parking Lot
- Sidewalk
- Alley
- Intersection of driveway and sidewalk
- Road / street
- Roadside / shoulder
- Other (specify) _____
- Unknown

10. Non motorist sightline obstructions
(Select all that apply)

- None
- Other vehicles
- Building
- Trees
- Shrubby
- Utility poles
- Signs
- Glare
- Other (specify) _____
- Unknown

11. Grade at parked position _____ +/- %

12. Estimated distance from parked position to impact
_____ m

13. Estimated speed at impact _____ +/- kmph

14. Grade at impact _____ +/- %

15. Estimated distance from impact to vehicle final rest
_____ m

Unknown = 999 Reference Items 11,12, 13, 14, 15



VEHICLE FORM

1. Case Number _____

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION

2. VIN _____

3. Model Year _____

4. Vehicle Make (specify): _____

5. Vehicle Model (specify): _____

GLAZING

Location	Presence (check)	Status (select)	Clarity (select)	Tint (check)	Glazing Obstructions (specify if present)
Windshield		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
LF		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
RF		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
2 nd Left		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
2 nd Right		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
3 rd Left		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
3 rd Right		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
Backlight		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
Left Backlight		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
Right Backlight		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
Roof		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		
Other (specify)		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty		

TIRE DATA

6. Vehicle Manufacturer Recommended Tire Size _____

7. LF Tire Size _____

9. RF Tire Size _____

8. LR Tire Size _____

10. RR Tire Size _____

Seats / Head Restraint Data

Seat Position	Seat Type (Select from below)	Head Restraint (Check if available)	Head Restraint Adjustment (select)	NOTES:
Front Left			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
Front Middle			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
Front Right			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
2 nd Left			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
2 nd Middle			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
2 nd Right			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
3 rd Left			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
3 rd Middle			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
3 rd Right			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	

Seat Type codes:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 0 = No seat or seat folded down | 8 = Pedestal (i.e. column supported) |
| 1 = Bucket | 9 = Box mounted (i.e. van type) |
| 2 = Bucket w/ folding back | 10= Other seat type (specify) |
| 3 = Bench | 99= Unknown seat type |
| 4 = Bench with folding back cushions | |
| 5 = Bench w/ folding back | |
| 6 = Split bench w/ separate back cushions | |
| 7 = Split bench w/ separate folding back | |

VEHICLE MEASUREMENTS

Clearance Heights	Measurements (all from ground, and in centimeters)	NOTES
Beltline		
Top of trunk/tailgate		
Bottom of bumper		
Trailer hitch (if applicable)		
Undercarriage		
Sway bar		
Axle		
Differential		
Other (specify):		
Sensor Height (if equipped)		
Camera Height (if equipped)		



1. Case Number

PARKING AID PRESENCE

2. Type of backing/parking aid present

- OEM camera
- OEM ultrasonic/radar sensor
- OEM combination camera-ultrasonic/radar sensor
- OEM Fresnel lens
- OEM interior mirrors
- Aftermarket camera
- Aftermarket ultrasonic/radar sensor
- Aftermarket combination camera-ultrasonic radar sensor
- Aftermarket Fresnel lens
- Aftermarket interior mirrors
- Other (specify): _____

CAMERA INFORMATION

Specify field of view measurements on diagram

3. System make/model

4. Video monitor type

- None present
- LCD (color)
- CRT (black & white)
- Unknown

5. Video display size _____ cm
(Diagonal)

6. Camera location

- None present
- Bumper
- License plate
- Tailgate/Hatch/Trunk
- Other (specify): _____

7. Video image quality under scene lighting conditions

- None present
- Good
- Average
- Poor (specify): _____
- Unknown

8. Was the camera functioning properly

- None present
- Yes
- No, poor image quality due to glare
- No, poor image quality due to atmospheric conditions
- No, camera turned off
- No, camera inoperable
- Unknown

ULTRASONIC/RADAR SENSOR

Specify object detection range on diagram

9. System make/model

10. Auditory warning illumination

- No sensor present
- Yes
- No
- Unknown

11. Number of sensors _____

12. Sensor locations
(Select all that apply)

- No sensor present
- Left bumper
- Center bumper
- Right bumper
- License plate area
- Tailgate/Hatch/Trunk

13. Was warning system functioning properly

- No sensor present
- Yes, system alerted driver
- No, system did not alert driver
- No, system turned off
- No, system inoperable
- Unknown

14. Did driver react to warning

- No sensor present
- Yes
- No
- Unknown

15. Did driver report common false warnings

- No sensor present
- Yes
- No
- Unknown



DRIVER FORM

1. Case Number

DRIVER PROFILE

2. Driver's Age _____
99 = Unknown

3. Driver's Sex Male
 Female
 Unknown

4. Driver's Height _____ cm
999 = Unknown

5. Driver's Weight _____ kg
999 = Unknown

6. Driver eyewear worn
(Select all that apply)
 None
 Eyeglasses
 Sunglasses
 Contacts
 Unknown

7. Driver vision deficiency condition
(Select all that apply)
 None
 Near sighted
 Far sighted
 Astigmatism
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

8. Non motorist's relationship to driver
 No relationship
 Child
 Grandchild
 Sibling
 Neighbor
 Friend
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

DRIVER ACTIONS

9. Driver approach to vehicle for entry
From left front
 From left
 From left rear
 From right rear
 From right front
 Circled vehicle
 Return trip (backing into driveway/lot)
 Other (specify): _____
 N/A
 Unknown

10. Driver entry interruption
(Select all that apply)
 Direct trip from building to vehicle
 Loaded items into vehicle
 Spoke with family
 Spoke with neighbors
 Spoke with contacted nonmotorist
 Return trip (backing into driveway/lot)
 Other (specify): _____
 N/A
Unknown

11. Purpose of backing
 Leaving parking space in parking lot
 Backing onto roadway from driveway
 Entering parking space in parking lot
 Backing into driveway from roadway
 Other (specify): _____
 N/A
Unknown

12. Where was driver going
Description:

13. Driver in a hurry
 Yes N/A
 No Unknown
 Unknown

14. How did driver check behind (rear area of vehicle)
after vehicle entry
(Select all that apply)
 Did not look
 Checked mirrors
 Turned right and looked back
 Turned left and looked back
 Viewed Camera
 Listened for auditory/visual warning from system
 Other (specify): _____
N/A Unknown

15. Estimated time between vehicle entry and start
of backing
 0-10 Seconds Over 60 Seconds
 11-30 Seconds N/A
 31-60 Seconds Unknown

16. What direction was the driver looking during backing maneuver
(Select all that apply)
- Straight ahead
 - Right
 - Left
 - Rearward
 - At object inside the car
 - At mirrors
 - Other (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
17. Was the driver distracted during back up maneuver
(Select all that apply)
- No non-driving activities
 - External**
 - Looking at other vehicles
 - Looking at other non motorist
 - Looking at intended turn destination
 - External focus, not specified
 - Other external focus (specify): _____
 - Internal**
 - Looking at other occupant
 - Talking to passenger
 - Dialing phone
 - Talking on phone
 - Listening to radio/cd/portable playback device
 - Adjusting radio/cd player
 - Adjusting climate controls
 - Using a device/controls integral to vehicle (specify): _____
 - Reading/adjusting navigation system
 - Eating or drinking
 - Smoking related
 - Retrieving fallen object (specify): _____
 - Internal focus, not specified
 - Focused on other internal object (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
18. Driver avoidance actions prior to impact
(Select all that apply)
- None
 - Braking
 - Steering left
 - Steering right
 - Accelerating
 - Other (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
19. Did driver see struck non motorist prior to impact
(Select all that apply)
- No, never saw non motorist
 - Saw non motorist prior to entering vehicle
 - Saw non motorist after entering vehicle
 - Other (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
20. Est time between start of backing and impact
- <2 or = 1 second
 - 2-5 seconds
 - 6-10 seconds
 - > 10 seconds
 - N/A
 - Unknown
21. Driver interior sightline obstructions
(Select all that apply)
- Pillar
 - Headrest
 - Cargo
 - Other occupant
 - Other (specify) _____
 - Unknown
 - None
22. Recent experience driving this vehicle
- More than 10 times the last three months
 - 6-10 times the last three months
 - 2-5 times the last three months
 - Less than 2 times the last three months
 - First time driving this vehicle
 - N/A
 - Unknown
23. Frequency of driving in this parking lot/driveway
- Daily
 - Weekly
 - Several times a month
 - Monthly
 - Rarely
 - First time in lot/driveway
 - N/A
 - Unknown
24. Driver Impairment
(Select all that apply)
- No drugs or alcohol present
 - Alcohol present (specify BAC): _____
 - Drugs present (specify): _____
 - Unknown
25. Source of alcohol/drug results
- Police reported
 - Medical record
 - Other (specify) _____
 - Not Tested
 - Unknown if tested



Non Motorist Form

1. Case Number

NON-MOTORIST PROFILE

2. Non-motorist's Age _____ Months
_____ Years
99 = Unknown

3. Non-motorist's Sex
 Male
 Female
 Unknown

4. Non-motorist's Height _____ cm
999 = Unknown

5. Non-motorist's Weight _____ kg
999 = Unknown

6. Medical outcome
 Not injured
 ER only
 Hospitalized 1-4 days
 Hospitalized 5 days or more
 Treatment later
 Fatal
 Unknown

7. Source of most severe injury
 Bumper
 Tire
 Undercarriage
 Other Specify: _____
 Ground
 N/A
 Unknown

8. Non-motorist impairment
(Select all that apply)
 No drugs or alcohol present
 Positive for alcohol (specify BAC): _____
 Positive for drugs (specify): _____
 Unknown

9. Source of alcohol/drug results
 Police reported
 Medical Report
 Other (specify) _____
 Not Tested
 Unknown if tested

NON-MOTORIST ACTIONS

10. Non-motorist attitude
 Standing
 Bending at waist
 Sitting
 Crouching
 Kneeling
 On skates/skateboard
 On bike/scooter
 Other (specify) _____
 Unknown

11. Non-motorist motion
 Not moving
 Walking slowly
 Walking rapidly
 Running or jogging
 Skipping/Hopping/Jumping
 Falling/Stumbling/Rising
 On skates/skateboard
 On bike/scooter
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

12. Non-motorist approach relative to rear of vehicle
 Stationary
 From left
 From right
 From behind
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

13. Non-motorist first avoidance action
 No avoidance actions
 Stopped
 Accelerated pace
 Ran away (along vehicle path)
 Jumped
 Turned away from vehicle
 Turned toward vehicle and braced
 Dove or fell away from vehicle
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

14. Non-motorist primary focus of attention
 Striking vehicle
 Play object
 Person
 Surrounding traffic
 Animal
 Handheld electronic (phone, MP3 player, etc.)
 Other Object (specify) _____
 Unknown

15. Were any other Non-motorists present?
(Select all that apply)
 Alone
 One adult present
 One other child present
 Multiple adults present
 Multiple children present
 Unknown

NON MOTORIST CLOTHING

NOTES:

- Specify Color, Fabric and Texture/Weight for outermost layer only
- Indicate "NONE" if applicable
- Available codes:

	<u>Colors</u>		<u>Fabrics</u>		<u>Textures</u>		<u>Weights</u>
Black	Charcoal gray		Natural		Soft		Heavy
Lt gray/silver	Brown		Synthetic		Slick		Medium
Gold/tan	Purple		Blend		Coarse		Light
Dark blue	Light blue						
Dark green	Light green						
Maroon	Red						
Orange	Yellow						
White	Other (specify)						

	Clothing	Color	Fabric	Texture	Weight
H E A D W E A R	Hat				
	Helmet				
	Hood				
	Other (specify): _____				
U P P E R B O D Y	Short Sleeve				
	Long Sleeve				
	Light Jacket				
	Heavy Jacket				
	Other (Specify): _____				
L O W E R B O D Y	Shorts				
	Pants				
	Shoes				
	Other (specify): _____				