

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2011

Emergency Vehicle Crashes

While crashes involving emergency vehicles are relatively rare, an evaluation of these motor vehicle incidents is valuable because these vehicles provide important services and must do so both expeditiously and in a safe manner.

	All Crashes	Crashes Involving Emergency
		Vehicles
Crashes:	281,914	2,844
Fatal Crashes:	835	4
Injury Crashes:	60,056	720
Total People Involved:	665,697 ^a	7,048 ^a
Total Fatalities:	918 ^a	4 ^a
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	84,215 ^a	1,143 ^a

^a Totals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 665,697 total people = 657,345 occupants + 8,352 non-occupants

Just 2,844 (1.0%) of all 281,914 motor vehicle incidents in Illinois in 2011 involved emergency vehicles such as ambulance, fire and police vehicles. * Crashes involving emergency vehicles accounted for 4 (0.4%) of all 918 traffic fatalities.

Emergency Vehicles on Call

There were a total of 345 crashes in Illinois in 2011 specifically involving emergency vehicles on call. Just one fatality resulted from these crashes, or 0.1% of all 918 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2011.

Emergency Vehicle Types

More police vehicles were involved in crashes, fatal crashes and injury crashes than ambulance and fire vehicles. ^{†,‡}

EMERGENCY VEHICLE INVOLVEMENT [†]	TOTAL	FATAL CRASHES		INJURY CRASHES	
	CRASHES #	#	%	#	%
Ambulance	316	1	(0.32)	63	(19.9)
Fire	255	0	(0.00)	42	(16.5)
Police	2,249	3	(0.13)	608	(27.0)
No Emergency Vehicle Involved	279,070	831	(0.30)	59,336	(21.3)

* Emergency vehicles were defined as ambulance, police and fire vehicles plus any vehicle whose use was as an emergency vehicle on call

[†] Where type of emergency vehicle was known; 1.4% of all emergency vehicles involved in crashes were emergency vehicles on call of unknown type

[‡] A few crashes involved more than one type of emergency vehicle, so the totals for each type are not mutually exclusive

Note: Data as of October 22, 2012; with 281,914 crash records, 523,044 vehicle records and 665,697 person records.

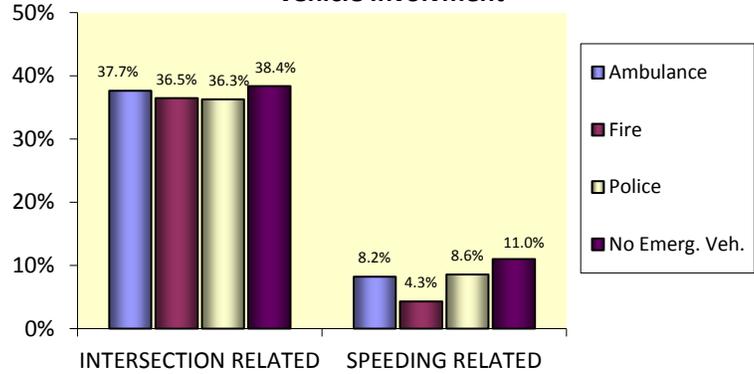
The law regarding the reporting threshold for Property Damage Only crashes was amended effective January 1, 2009, resulting in decreased reporting of crashes in this specific category. It did not affect the reporting of injury or fatal crashes. For details of the reporting amendment, see also <http://app.idph.state.il.us/emsrpt/crash.asp>.

Funding and development of this fact sheet was provided by: Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois EMSC (a collaborative program between the Illinois Department of Public Health and Loyola University Medical Center). July 2013

Intersection-Related and Speeding-Related Crashes

- Crashes involving emergency vehicles were about as likely to be intersection-related (1,043 of 2,844, or 36.7%) as other crashes (107,086 of 279,070, or 38.4%).
- They were slightly less likely to be speeding-related[§] (234 of 2,844, or 8.2%) than other crashes (30,791 of 279,070, or 11.0%).
- Crashes involving emergency vehicles *on call* were more likely to be intersection-related (187 of 345, or 54.2%) than other emergency vehicle crashes (856 of 2,499, or 34.3%) and crashes in which no emergency vehicle was involved (107,086 of 279,070, or 38.4%).
- Crashes involving emergency vehicles *on call* were about as likely to be speeding-related (24 of 345, or 7.0%) as other emergency vehicle crashes (345 of 2,499, or 8.4%) and less likely than crashes in which no emergency vehicle was involved (30,791 of 279,070, or 11.0%).

Proportion of Crashes that were Intersection-Related or Speeding-Related, by Emergency Vehicle Involvement

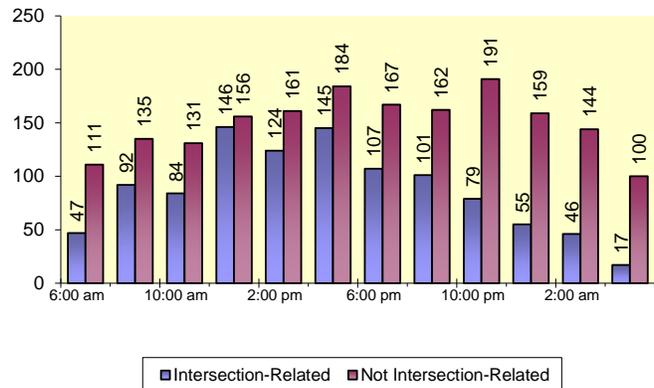


Where emergency vehicle type was known

Time of Day

- Crashes involving emergency vehicles peaked during the afternoon hours, with 11.6% of all such crashes occurring between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM.
- 42.1% of emergency vehicle crashes between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm were intersection-related, compared with 30.5% at other hours.

Time of Day for Crashes Involving Emergency Vehicles, By Intersection-Relatedness



Data aggregated in 2-hour increments

Crashes Involving Police Evasion

- 520 crashes in Illinois in 2011 involved drivers trying to evade police vehicles^{**}
- These crashes represent 0.18% of all 281,914 crashes and 4 (0.48%) of all 835 fatal crashes in Illinois in 2011
- 107 (20.6%) of these 520 crashes were also speeding-related

[§] Speeding-related crashes were defined as crashes in which at least one driver in the crash was driving too fast for conditions or in which exceeding the speed limit or excessive speed for conditions was listed by police as a cause of the crash

^{**} Police vehicles themselves were also involved in 84 (16.2%) of these 520 collisions