



THE CALIFORNIA CRASH DATA SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROJECT

PURPOSE

In 2024, California applied for a new grant announced by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) – the State Electronic Data Collection (SEDC) – to assist states with upgrading their motor vehicle crash data collection and to allow them to share their state crash data with NHTSA. As a result, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) was awarded SEDC grant funding to modernize the California crash data system and achieve three goals:

1. Upgrade or establish statewide centralized crash data repository to implement full electronic transfer to NHTSA.
2. Increasing alignment of State crash data to the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) 6th Edition.
3. Adoption of electronic crash reporting by all law enforcement agencies in the State.

SCOPE OF PROJECT

Crash Data Collection Module

- CHP will design and build a new crash data collection system – CALcrash.
 - » User-centered, standardized crash reporting system for both CHP and local law enforcement (Allied Agencies) with a goal of 100% usage. This design concept has been proven to reduce the law enforcement officer's roadside workload and improve the accuracy of crash data collected.

Crash Data Standardization

- The crash data collection system will be built to capture 100% of the MMUCC 6th Edition elements for standardized and consistent data.
 - » As more Allied Agencies use the module, data will become more standardized and consistent statewide.

Other Benefits

- The CALcrash data collection application will have centralized management and updates.
- Although CALcrash uses a cloud-based solution, the application will be designed to work even when officers are off-line, uploading data when connectivity is restored.
- Validation checks are the same for all users. Updates will be deployed to all users simultaneously.

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Other Benefits, continued

- The module will interface with other systems to auto-fill crash data fields to optimize efficiency and accuracy. Integrations with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will be employed through collaboration with their technical teams to better utilize:
 - » Driver information
 - » Vehicle information
 - » Roadway information

Additional Enhancements and Considerations

- Quality control and validation coding by comparing the narrative to data entered in the crash fields.
- Improvements in smart mapping: The officer can click on a map to locate the crash. An interface with the Caltrans Linear Referencing System (LRS) basemap could auto-fill the location fields, increasing location data accuracy.
- Visualization of key crash data elements through a dashboard interface to Allied Agencies and other key traffic safety stakeholders (public, private, and academic).

Collaboration and Data Governance

- Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC), Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), and Allied Agencies.
- Establishment of the TRCC CALcrash subcommittee and Crash Data User Group (CDUG) to support the project.
- In coordination with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), an Executive Steering Committee will be established to optimize collaboration across CalSTA departments and other stakeholder state agencies.

Timeline

- January 2025 – December 2029 (subject to change)