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*injury biomechanics  
vehicle ergonomics  
occupant kinematics  
dynamic testing  
crash investigations*

**To:** Concerned Stakeholder for Wheelchair User Transportation Safety:

**From:** Larry Schneider  
Research Professor 

**Subject:** Request for Notification of Crashes Involving Wheelchair Users

The Rehabilitation Engineering and Research Center on Wheelchair Transportation Safety (RERC on WTS) is conducting in-depth investigations of motor-vehicle crashes and other non-crash injury and near-injury incidents involving wheelchair-seated passengers or drivers. Our goal is to accurately and objectively document and analyze crash and non-crash events that have the potential to cause injury to wheelchair users. In particular, we want to document and report on the specific crash, vehicle, wheelchair, wheelchair securement, and occupant-restraint factors in relation to injuries sustained by wheelchair users and thus identify injury scenarios that may be unique to wheelchair-seated occupants. The results will be used to guide future research activities and safety standards.

**For our study to be successful, we need your help to obtain timely notification of crashes and other moving-vehicle incidents involving occupants seated in wheelchairs.** It is particularly important that we are able to inspect the involved vehicles and any wheelchair /occupant restraint systems before they are repaired or replaced.

If you become aware of a motor-vehicle crash or other incident involving a wheelchair-seated occupant, we would greatly appreciate your notifying us about it as soon as possible by calling 734 936-1103. This number is also included on the attached "Wanted Poster" that you can post in your office or work area. If, after learning more details about an accident, we decide to conduct a full investigation, we will ask you to inform the involved wheelchair user or their legal representative about our study to find out if they are willing to participate and be contacted by one of our crash investigators for a phone interview.

In making this request for notifications, I want to emphasize that **all information obtained in these investigations is for research purposes only and will be sanitized prior to use in any publications or presentations so as not to identify specific individuals or companies. Also, our case files are maintained in a locked facility and all information in these files is protected from FOIA access by attorneys and other individuals by Michigan House Bill No. 4377 (copy included with enclosed description of the study).** This study has been approved by the Human-Use Institutional Review Boards at both the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Michigan.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important research project that will help us improve transportation safety for wheelchair users. Please call me at 734 936-1103 if you have any questions.