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*A Non-Profit Cooperative to Improve Health Care and Reduce Members' Costs*

*Presented at the 2007 EMS Today Conference in Baltimore, Maryland*

## **Ambulance Motor Vehicle Crashes: Correlation of Time of Day and Whether Drivers are Determined at Fault**

**March 2007**

### Objectives:

Over the years there have been questions in the ambulance industry as to whether time of day has any impact on whether the driver involved in a motor vehicle crash was deemed at fault or not at fault. This study will determine whether there is any correlation to this theory.

### Methods:

This was a retrospective study of motor vehicle crashes that occurred in an ambulance service that provides Paramedic, Basic Life Support – Emergency, Basic Life Support – non-emergency, and Specialty Care Transport services. Geographically the service operates in both a suburban and urban environment. The study covered a 30 month period from January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2006. Data points in the study included: Time of the crash and whether the driver was at fault, not at fault, or whether fault was undeterminable.

### Results:

During this period, there were a total of 200 motor vehicle crashes in the data base of which 174 had sufficient data to be enrolled in this study. On average drivers were at fault 52.30% of the time and not at fault 29.59% of the time. Fault was undeterminable 14.94% of the time. During no 4 hour interval studied, was the at fault rate significantly greater than another.

### Conclusion:

There was no correlation between the time of day and whether the ambulance driver involved in a motor vehicle crash was determined at fault.