

Community Maps – Crash Flag Definitions

Community Maps provides a statewide map of all police reported motor vehicle crashes in Wisconsin from 2010 to the current year. Fatal crashes are included from 2001. Crashes are updated on a nightly basis from data extracts provided by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of State Patrol. Crashes in Community Maps may be filtered based on location, date range, severity, and other high-level attributes. The following *crash flags* are available to filter crashes based on crash factors and key issue areas. Some flags may not be included on all Search interfaces. See the **March 2024** Change History section at the end of this document for important updates to the crash flag definitions.

Bike Flag	Indicates whether a bicycle was involved in a crash.
Large Truck Flag	Indicates whether a crash involved a large truck, based on vehicle type.
Deer Flag	Indicates whether a crash was deer related, based on the following criteria: the first harmful event involved an alive or dead non-domesticated animal of type deer. Note that many deer crashes are unreported or self-reported through DT4002 driver reports which are not included in Community Maps.
Distracted Flag	Indicates whether driver distraction was a factor in a crash.
Government Property	Indicates whether a crash involved damage to government property.
Impaired Driver	Indicates whether alcohol or drug use was a factor in a crash, based on the following criteria: a driver was suspected by law enforcement of alcohol or drug use, or a citation was issued.
Motorcycle Flag	Indicates whether a motorcycle was involved in a crash.
Pedestrian Flag	Indicates whether a pedestrian was involved in a crash.
Occupant Protection	Indicates whether one or more motorists involved in a crash had failed to use occupant protection.
Speed Flag	Indicates whether speed was a factor in a crash based on the following criteria: the reporting law enforcement officer indicated a driver exceeded the speed limit, was driving too fast for conditions, or a citation was issued.
Teen Driver Flag	Indicates whether a crash involved one or more drivers between 13 and 19 years of age regardless of license status. See the February 2024 Change History.
65+ Driver Flag	Indicates whether a crash involved one or more drivers of age 65 years or older.
Work Zone Flag	Indicates whether a crash occurred in a construction, maintenance, or utility work zone or was related to activity within a work zone.

The following additional flags are available on the Advanced Search interface:

Aggressive Flag	Indicates whether aggressive driving was a factor in a crash, based on a combination of Driver Actions at the Time of the Crash.
ATV/UTV Flag	Indicates whether an ATV or UTV was involved in a crash with a motor vehicle. Note that ATV or UTV roadway crashes that do not involve a motor vehicle are reported separately through the DNR crash form and are not included in this flag.
CMV Flag	Indicates whether a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) was involved in a crash, based on the vehicle configuration as required for FMCSA reporting.
Hit and Run Flag	Indicates whether a crash involved a hit and run vehicle.
Helmet Flag	Indicates whether one or more motorcyclists involved in a crash had failed to use a helmet.
Lane Departure 1 Unit	Indicates whether a single unit crash involved a lane departure.
Lane Departure 2+ Units	Indicates whether a multi-unit crash involved a lane departure.
School Bus Flag	Indicates whether a school bus or motor vehicle functioning as a school bus for a school-related purpose was involved in a crash.
Train Flag	Indicates whether a train was involved in a crash.
Winter Road Flag	Indicates whether a crash occurred on a winter road based on the following: the road surface conditions were reported as ice, slush, or snow.

Community Maps provides a logical operator to combine crash flags within a search. Select OR (the default) to return crashes matching ANY of the selected flags. Select AND to return crashes matching ALL selected flags.

Additional Resources

A *Community Maps – Crash Flags Technical Definitions* document is available from the Community Maps “Training and Help” page that provides a complete set of derivations for the Community Maps crash flags in terms of the underlying DT4000 elements and attributes.

Interpreting the Crash Flag Results

It is important to note that the Community Maps crash flags provide filters at the *crash level*. In the example below (see the figure 1 on the next page), the Teen Driver flag has been selected returning 64 teen driver related fatal crashes in 2019, resulting in 71 fatalities and 113 injuries. The total fatalities and injuries cover all fatal and injured persons involved in those crashes, not just the teen drivers. In some cases, the teen drivers themselves may be unharmed and would not be included in those totals. Moreover, each crash is only counted once, even if a crash involved more than one Teen Driver.

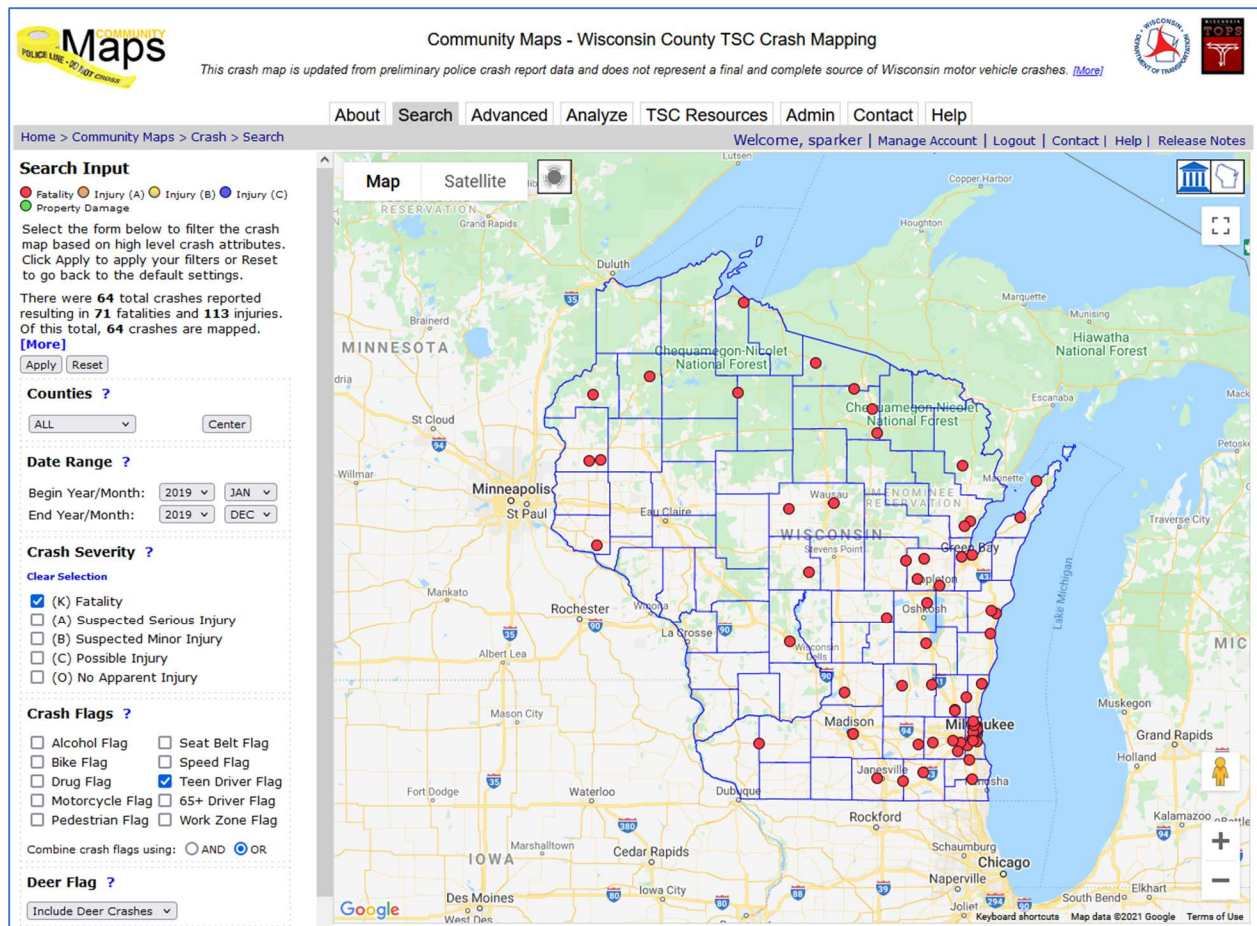


Figure 1. Community Maps reports total fatalities and injuries at the crash level. In this example, 71 fatalities and 113 injuries represent all persons involved in those crashes, not just teen drivers.

Community Maps Contact Information

For crash data analysis questions or additional information about Community Maps, please email the WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety Program and Policy Unit at CrashDataAnalysis@dot.wi.gov.

Community Maps Crash Flags Change History

March 2024:

- The Teen Driver flag definition has been revised to include all drivers between 13 and 19 years of age regardless of license status. All prior year flag values have been backfilled to match the new definition.
- Limited the Speed Flag statute number comparison to the 346.57 series. Prior year flag values from 2017 to present have been backfilled to match the new definition.
- Added a Large Truck Flag based on vehicle type, which provides a general purpose flag for large truck safety analysis. The CMV flag is still available for commercial motor vehicle enforcement purposes.
- New flags have been added intermittently, including Hit and Run and Winter Road flags.
- Intersection Flag has been removed. The new Location Type filter provides generalized functionality.
- Minor corrections to flag values from 2017 to present have been applied to align all crash flags to the Community Maps – Crash Flags Technical Definitions document.

December 2022:

- Disregarded Stop Sign was added to the Aggressive Flag Tier 3 category. This was missed when the Aggressive Flag was added to Community Maps in July 2022.

July 2022:

- A new expandable section of additional crash flags was added to the Advanced Search interface.

March 2022:

- Redefined the Distracted Flag to make direct use of the DT4000 distracted elements. Distracted flag values have been applied retroactively from January 1, 2017. Pre-2016 values are taken from the prior MV4000 definition.
- Replaced the Seat Belt flag with a new Safety Restraint flag which is limited to motor vehicle safety restraint equipment. Safety Restraint flag values have been applied retroactively from January 1, 2017. Pre-2016 values are taken from the prior MV4000 definition.
- Replaced the Alcohol and Drug flags with a combined Impaired flag. Impaired flag values have been applied retroactively from January 1, 2017. Pre-2016 values are taken from the combined MV4000 alcohol and drug flags.