



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NATIONAL ACCIDENT SAMPLING SYSTEM
FIELD TECHNIQUES

IV

CRASH MEASUREMENTS

DAMAGE DIMENSIONS

- 44 Detailed measurements of residual vehicle crush are entered into the CRASH program. These measurements, collectively called the crush profile, are among the most important inputs for CRASH. In NASS, the damage dimensions are for total damage -- direct damage plus induced damage.*

THE THREE BASIC DAMAGE DIMENSIONS: L, D, AND C

45

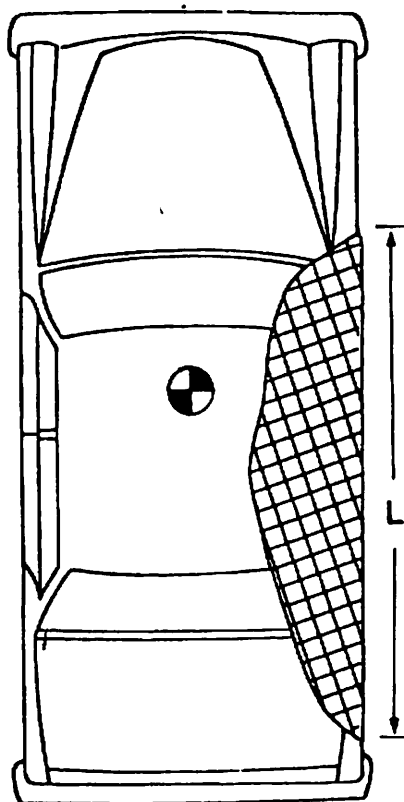


FIGURE 20: "L" Dimension for right side damage

*NASS users of CRASH measure total damage, but most other CRASH users measure only the direct damage. Check your CRASH program specifications if you are uncertain whether to include induced damage in your vehicle measurements.



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PREFACE

This manual and its accompanying slide-tape package are part of a self-instructional training program. The purpose of the program is to introduce the user to the fundamentals of motor vehicle accident investigation.

The program content emphasizes basic principles and techniques that underlie or are required for the conduct of field case studies in the National Accident Sampling System (NASS) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

The NASS program contains an extensive schedule of formal training. The present self-study system, however, is intended to be used by new or replacement personnel who join the program at times when the formal training cycle is not scheduled. The system is also useful for skill enhancement by existing NASS field researchers, and as an overview for middle and upper level management personnel.

These training modules are administered as deemed appropriate by NHTSA and the NASS Zone Centers which provide field training, quality control, and middle echelon management for the NASS program.