



Washington Association of  
Technical Accident Investigators  
PO Box 70211  
Bellevue, Washington 98005

2010 WATAI FALL CONFERENCE  
'TRAFFIC SIGNALS & COLLISION RECONSTRUCTION'

Daren Marceau

October 19-21, 2010

Location: The Landing In Renton

960B Park Ave N.

Renton, WA 98055

(I-405-Exit # 5)

**Class Description:**

Traffic crash investigators and reconstructionists are typically skilled at answering 'how' questions in their investigations. How fast was the car traveling? How long was the skid mark? Quite often these same investigators are faced with the 'why' questions. Why was the driver going too fast in the curve? Why did the truck merge into the left lane and collide with the car? Why didn't the driver stop for the stop sign?

The answers to these questions often requires the investigator to step back and look at the driving environment. The roadway, signs, pavement markings, signs, and traffic signals were supposed to be designed, installed, and maintained to meet specific national and state standards. But what if they were not, drivers acted unexpectedly, and this is the real underlying reason 'why' the crash occurred.

Through a series of traffic crash case studies this class will familiarize the students with common traffic control device problems found in everyday driving such as missing signs, improperly timed traffic signals, or poorly installed warning signs and pavement markings. The students will become familiar with the federal standards that govern all traffic control devices in our driving environment - The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the Federal Highway Administration. The class will be broken into small groups to solve realistic crash scenarios that will require the students to use the material that was just presented.

This class is intended to provide a few more tools for the investigator's tool box to broaden the investigator's ability to review and analyze a traffic crash. Not all crashes lend themselves to the material in this class. However, a thorough investigator needs to consider the driving environment as well as the vehicles and the driver's actions.

**Class Agenda:**

0800 - 1130:

instructor introduction, class objectives discussed, instructor's expectations of students, class rules/etiquette

introduction to crashes involving traffic control devices

introduction to MUTCD

1130 - 1300:

lunch - not provided, students eat on their own; this is also a good time for students to check messages from work, and to return to class focused on the material

1300 - 1600

traffic crash case studies for students to solve in small groups

breaks will be given every hour; these are short restroom breaks

drinks and snacks are fine in the classroom

Feel free to visit Daren's website: <http://www.trafficsignalexpert.com>