

CRASH DATA RETRIEVAL – What Gets Recorded?
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As anticipated, many vehicle models, including GM are going CAN bus. This Controller Area Network interface allows for more efficient communication between a vehicle's electronic systems, including of course those silver boxes we refer to as Electronic Data Recorders. The newer modules record much more data.

In the past up to 2004-2005 year models, depending upon the exact year and model of vehicle, the module may have recorded all or some of the following information:

- Brake status and Throttle position up to 5 seconds before impact
- Vehicle forward speed and Engine speed up to 5 seconds before impact
- Air bag warning lamp, driver's seat belt buckle and right front passenger air bag suppression switch status
- Number of ignition cycles at the time of the incident and at the time of the investigation
- Other relevant times and longitudinal speed changes in relation to near deployment or deployment

With the newer 2005-2006 year model GM vehicles, the module may also record the status of the following systems:

- Vehicle Power Mode & Low Tire Pressure Warning Lamp
- Transmission Range & Selector Position
- Traction Control System & Vehicle Dynamics Control Activity
- Service Engine Soon and Service Vehicle Soon Lamps
- Outside Air Temperature
- All Doors (Open, Closed, or Unused)
- Reduced Engine Power Mode
- Cruise Control Activity
- Antilock Brake System Activity
- Lateral Acceleration and Yaw Rate (spin rate about the vertical axis of the vehicle)
- Steering Wheel Angle
- SIR Warning Lamp ON/OFF Time (seconds)
- Diagnostic Trouble Codes at Event
- Driver & Passenger, First and Second Stage Deployment Command and Timing
- Multiple Event Counter and Time Between Events
- Driver & Right Front Passenger Seat Belt Pretensioner Deployment Command
- Driver & Right Front Passenger Side/Roof /Head Curtain and Knee Deployment Command
- Second & Third Rows / Rear Seats Left & Right Side Air Bag Deployment Command
- Second & Third Rows / Rear Seats Left & Right Pretensioner Deployment Command
- If an Event(s) Preceded, occurred in Between or followed the Recorded Event(s)
- If the Event(s) Not Recorded was/were a Deployment or Non-Deployment Event(s)
- If Vehicle Event Data (Pre-Crash) was Associated With The Event
- If a Deployment Event Recorded in the Non-Deployment Record
- If the Crash Record Locked & if the Event Recording Was Complete
- Estimated Principal Direction of Force (PDOF)
- More

We are now looking forward to additional manufacturers following in allowing access to these types of EDR modules in their vehicles soon.