



These three photographs show the same truck after the placement of a crush measurement jig. One might more accurately describe this device as a crush demonstration jig. This apparatus can be set up to accurately measure and clearly show the details of the crush on a given vehicle. This is additional graphical evidence (documentation) of a detailed job. This jig was not necessary to measure the crush on the truck; its primary purpose in this situation is to provide solid substantiation of the accuracy of the measurements taken and the thoroughness of the investigation. Where a jury trial is likely or where other persons are involved as investigators, the use of this jig is one more piece of evidence of a thorough, detailed job. As we all know, a few pictures can be worth more than thousands of words.



Regardless of the use of this jig, accurate measurement of the crush on the vehicles will usually provide a substantial foundation on which to base opinions regarding speed(s) at impact. Combined with a site examination which can demonstrate point of impact and vehicle final positions, conservation of energy principles can often lead to valid, reasonable opinions and conclusions about the speed of each vehicle at impact. If there was pre-impact skidding, that speed loss can be factored in using the sum of the squares method, providing the client with a solidly based opinion regarding vehicle speed at the initiation of skidding. In many collision situations, that speed is above the posted limit.

Please call or write if I can be of service to you in accident reconstruction or other vehicle-related investigation.



**Ralph Cunningham
Accident Reconstructionist**

- Collision Analysis**
- On-road, Off-road, Marine**
- Pedestrian/Bicyclist**
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