

Ralph's Accident Reconstruction Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 1—Page 2

Number NHTSA-2006-25666, RIN 2127-AI72. This document is available as a free download at <http://dmses.dot.gov/docimages/p86/411740.pdf>, for those who want to read the multi-page document as originally published in the Federal Register. Although I will admit to not having yet read every page of this document, I understand that it does not require all manufacturers of cars and light trucks to install EDRs but does establish a minimum standard for recording and data retrieval for those manufacturers who do.

Some of the misinformation I have read, seen, or heard includes allegations that EDRs will record minutes, hours, or even days of operational parameters; that the police can download the data by remote control (a “drive-by” download); that EDRs can be accessed on demand by or through satellites; and other “facts” based on no reality. Many persons also perceive “privacy” issues, which I perceive to mean “if you didn’t see me do it, you can’t prove I did it.” But what expectation of privacy is reasonable for operation of a motor vehicle on a public roadway? Just because there wasn’t a radar gun recording a speed of 90 mph before the crash doesn’t mean that the speeder should have an expectation that he won’t be charged with speeding, reckless driving, or whatever other offences might be associated with the event. Anyway, that’s my opinion; some people obviously have different opinions on the topic. Opposition to EDRs by many persons, however, seems to be based, at last partly, on the hysterical, inaccurate, paranoid expositions by reporters who don’t understand the technology or don’t care to understand the technology. Freedom of speech!

As of the writing of this newsletter, there is a rumor that EDRs in late-model Toyota cars and light trucks will be accessible with the Vetronix CDR system in the near future. It’s just a rumor, but there’s often a factual basis for a rumor. Stay tuned for updates!

Another new piece of hardware I acquired last year is an Epson AcuLaser CX11NF. This is a color-laser-based all-in-one capable of making color copies, scanning in full color, sending and receiving faxes (in color for those other machines which also have the capability), and making copies of pages from books and other publications. Previously, the only method I had to make copies of books, furnished photographs, and other information was to use a flatbed scanner, store the image on a hard drive, and print it. This new machine will save lots of time in the future. One of the reasons I chose this particular model was the quality of color copies of large photographs: on the date that I went to the office-supply store to purchase a color-laser all-in-one, I took some 8 by 10 color photographs with me and test-copied them on all of the demonstrator machines. The Epson won, so I bought it.

Last year was a very good year for my business. I am grateful to all of my clients for your on-going consideration of my services. As always, please contact me any time you have a question regarding my services, fees, or related matters.

Ralph Cunningham, Inc.
Accident Reconstruction
www.RalphCunningham.net

Collision Analysis
On-road, Off-road, Marine
Pedestrian/Bicyclist
Motorcycle Collisions
Conspicuity Evaluations
Lamp Filament Evaluations
EDR Downloads
Tire Failure Evaluations
Brake/Steering Evaluations
Seat Belts/Airbags



1804 Thornhill Pass, SE
Conyers, GA 30013
770.918.0973
Fax: 770.918.8076

Ralph Cunningham, Inc.
1804 Thornhill Pass, SE
Conyers, GA 30013