APPENDIX A

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO FATAL ACCIDENTS

The following is a list of 95 factors from the FARS database that contribute to fatal accidents. I classify 25 of these factors (numbers 6, 21 through 23, 26 through 36, 38 through 44, and 46 through 48) as involving negligent behavior. These 25 contributing factors are shown in italics. In addition, I classify six contributing factors (numbers 6, 28, 36, 38, 39, and 44) as “Principal” ones because they are by far the most commonly cited.

PHYSICAL/MENTAL CONDITION

01 Drowsy, sleepy, asleep, fatigued
02 Ill, passed out/blackout
03 Emotional (for example, depressed, angry, disturbed)
04 Drugs/medication
05 Other drugs (marijuana, cocaine, and others)
06 *Inattentive (talking, eating, and such)*
07 Restricted to wheelchair
08 Paraplegic
09 Impaired due to previous injury
10 Deaf
11 Other physical impairment
12 Mother of dead fetus
13 Mentally challenged
14 Failure to take drugs/medication

MISCELLANEOUS FACTORS

18 Traveling on prohibited traffic-ways
19 Driving on suspended or revoked license
20 Leaving vehicle unattended with engine running; leaving vehicle unattended in roadway
21 *Overloading or improper loading of vehicle with passengers or cargo*
22 *Towing or pushing vehicle improperly*
23 *Failing to dim lights or to have lights on when required*
24 Operating without required equipment
25 Creating unlawful noise or using equipment prohibited by law
26 **Following improperly**
27 **Improper or erratic lane changing**
28 **Failure to keep in proper lane or running off road**
29 **Illegal driving on road shoulder, in ditch, on sidewalk, or on median**
30 **Making improper entry to or exit from traffic-way**
31 **Starting or backing improperly**
32 **Opening vehicle closure into moving traffic or vehicle is in motion**
33 **Passing where prohibited by posted signs, pavement markings, hill or curve, or school bus displaying warning not to pass**
34 **Passing on wrong side**
35 **Passing with insufficient distance or inadequate visibility or failing to yield to overtaking vehicle**
36 **Operating the vehicle in an erratic, reckless, careless, or negligent manner, or operating at erratic or suddenly changing speeds**
37 **High-speed chase with police in pursuit**
38 **Failure to yield right of way**
39 **Failure to obey traffic signs, traffic control devices, or traffic officers; failure to observe safety zone traffic laws**
40 **Passing through or around barrier**
41 **Failure to observe warnings or instructions on vehicle displaying them**
42 **Failure to signal intentions**
43 **Giving wrong signal**
44 **Driving too fast for conditions or in excess of posted speed limit**
45 **Driving less than posted minimum speed**
46 **Operating at erratic or suddenly changing speeds**
47 **Making right turn from left turn lane; making left turn from right turn lane**
48 **Making improper turn**
49 **Failure to comply with physical restrictions of license**
50 **Driving wrong way on one-way traffic-way**
51 **Driving on wrong side of road (intentionally or unintentionally)**
52 **Operator inexperience**
53 **Unfamiliar with roadway**
54 **Stopping in roadway (vehicle not abandoned)**
55 **Under-riding a parked truck**
56  Improper tire pressure
57  Locked wheel
58  Over-correcting
59  Getting off/out of or on/in to moving vehicle
60  Getting off/out of or on/in to non-moving vehicle

VISION OBSCURED BY
61  Rain, snow, fog, smoke, sand, or dust
62  Reflected glare, bright sunlight, or headlights
63  Curve, hill, or other design features (including traffic signs, embankment)
64  Building, billboard, and such
65  Trees, crops, or vegetation
66  Motor vehicle (including load)
67  Parked vehicle
68  Splash or spray or passing vehicle
69  Inadequate defrost or defog system
70  Inadequate lighting system
71  Obstructing angles on vehicle
72  Mirrors—rear view
73  Mirrors—other
74  Head restraints
75  Broken or improperly cleaned windshield
76  Other obstruction

AVOIDING, SWERVING, OR SLIDING DUE TO
77  Severe crosswind
78  Wind from passing truck
79  Slippery or loose surface
80  Tire blowout or flat
81  Debris or objects in road
82  Ruts, holes, or bumps in road
83  Live animals in road
84  Vehicle in road
85  Phantom vehicle
86  Pedestrian, cyclist, or other non-motorist in road
87  Ice, water, snow, slush, sand, dirt, oil, or wet leaves on road
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS FACTORS

- 89 Carrying hazardous cargo improperly
- 90 Hit-and-run vehicle driver
- 91 Non-traffic violation charged—manslaughter or other homicide offense
- 92 Other non-moving traffic violation

POSSIBLE DISTRACTIONS (INSIDE VEHICLE)

- 93 Cellular telephone
- 94 Fax machine
- 95 Computer
- 96 On-board navigation system
- 97 Two-way radio
- 98 Head-up display
- 99 Unknown

*Classified as a “Principal” factor