

Safety on Nichols Sawmill Road

The following information is about safety along Nichols Sawmill Road between FM 1774 to FM 2920 via Roberts Cemetery Road in Montgomery County. There are several caveats to the data and analysis that you should be aware of:

1. The data H-GAC has analyzed is distributed by the Accident Records Bureau of the Department of Public Safety. This is the state agency vested with documenting crashes for the State. Currently, their reporting requirements are that all fatal crashes, all injury crashes, and all property damage only (PDO) crashes in which one or more vehicles were towed be reported. Thus, they do not include the typical 'fender bender' in which no one is injured and all vehicles are driven away from the crash scene. In other words, the data we have represent the more serious crashes.
2. We've geocoded the crashes. However, because the data are kept in a very old information system by DPS in which road names are represented either by five-digit codes, the first five letters of the road name, or control-section numbers (for rural state roads), there is inevitably some geocoding error. We were able to geocode about 82% of all crashes in the DPS data set with about 90% accuracy on average.
3. To date, we have only geocoded crashes for 1999. Thus, any conclusions about location are only tentative.
4. Spatial accuracy is within 50-100 yards. One would need actual crash diagrams to have more accuracy.
5. Please cite the Accident Records Bureau of the Texas Department of Public Safety as the source for the crash data and cite the Houston-Galveston Area Council as the source for the crash analysis.

The conclusions are as follows:

1. In 1999, there were 5 crashes on Nichols Sawmill Road between FM 2920 and FM 1774. These included no fatal crashes, no incapacitating injury crashes (Type A), no non-incapacitating injury crashes (Type B), 1 possible injury crash (Type C), and 4 property damage only crashes where one or more vehicles was towed.
2. Of the 5 crashes, 3 were with other motor vehicles, one was with an animal, and one was with a fixed object.
3. Along Nichols Sawmill Road, there were four locations where crashes occurred. Two occurred at the junction of Nichols Sawmill Road and

Commerce St. and one crash each occurred along Nichols Sawmill Road at Elm, Roberts, and FM 1774.

4. Based on the estimate of VMT from our modeling group, *serious crash risk* was calculated. This is the number of serious crashes (fatalities, injuries, or PDO where one or more vehicles was towed) per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT). In 1999, serious crash risk on Nichols Sawmill Road along this stretch was 20.7 crashes per 100 million VMT. This is much lower than the regional average of 199 crashes per 100 million VMT and also much lower than the statewide average of 145.8. Compared to the region as a whole and to the state as a whole, crash risk is much lower than average.