

**TRAFFIC CRASH  
INVESTIGATION AND RECONSTRUCTION  
ACCREDITATION AND ASSOCIATION  
RESOURCE GUIDE**

**FEBRUARY 2022**

The purpose of this guide is to provide professionals in the traffic crash investigation and reconstruction field a single point of reference regarding resources, networking and associations within the field of expertise. The guide will be updated periodically. For errors or to provide updates, please contact Adam Hyde at: [adamhyde@comcast.net](mailto:adamhyde@comcast.net).

## **TRAFFIC CRASH INVESTIGATION AND RECONSTRUCTION**

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# **ACCREDITATION**

## **Traffic Accident Reconstruction Accreditation**

### **Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstruction A.C.T.A.R.**

ACTAR was founded by and exists for the benefit of the traffic accident investigation and reconstruction community. The recognition of ACTAR accreditation among those in the accident reconstruction industry as well as the legal community encourages the integrity, consistency and professionalism of those involved in traffic accident reconstruction. ACTAR accreditation promotes the professional and intellectual development of individuals, organizations and institutions involved in traffic accident reconstruction. ACTAR accreditation also assists the legal and scientific community in weighing the suitability of individuals offering their services as Accident Reconstructionists while improving public awareness of the profession as it relates to the legal system.

Further information can be found at: <https://actar.org/>



## **NATIONAL CRASH ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***National Association of Professional Accident Reconstruction Specialists (NAPARS)***

***ACTAR Participating Organization***

NAPARS is a non-profit organization whose members have joined together since 1984 to share the challenge of dealing with the increasingly complex problems of accident reconstruction and to upgrade and ultimately professionalize the accident reconstruction field. NAPARS is open to all persons who are interested in the fields of traffic accident reconstruction and highway transportation safety. Present membership is approximately 800 and includes police officers, engineers, consultants and government safety personnel from all over the world.

Below is a snapshot NAPARS benefits:

- Access to the single largest organizational membership pool in the US, and maybe the world.
- Access to the online reference library, with more than 100 titles at last count
- Access to as the entire back-catalog of every ARJ and AIQ ever produced - that's a NAPARS exclusive that is part of what each member's dues pay for each year.
- 6 issues of the Accident Reconstruction Journal as it comes out.
- Reduced costs at sponsored conferences, and access to reduced-cost training

Further information can be found at: <https://www.napars.org/>

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### ***International Association of Accident Reconstruction Specialists (IAARS)*** ***ACTAR Participating Organization***

The International Association of Accident Reconstruction Specialists was started in 1980 as a resource for members to use when the inevitable questions arose while trying to reconstruct a crash. The annual seminars not only provide instruction on specific topics by experts in the field, they provide face-to-face discussions on how other people approach reconstructing a crash. The old saying “two heads are better than one” is definitely true in accident reconstruction. Our association has “old-timers” that have worked thousands of accidents. If you have a question, chances are they have encountered a similar situation in the past and can give some insight on how they worked it out. We also have members very familiar with the ins and outs of new technology (Crash Data Retrieval, Photogrammetry) and are willing to help with any questions or concerns you may have.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.iaars.org/>

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**National Association of Traffic Accident Reconstructionists and Investigators (NATARI)**

***ACTAR Participating Organization***

The National Association of Traffic Accident Reconstructionists and Investigators (NATARI) was established as a non-profit Pennsylvania corporation in 1984. The goal of NATARI is to provide a source of information to be shared among accident professionals on a national basis. This goal is reflected in the NATARI logo comprised of an outline of the nation, a broken wheel signifying a traffic collision and the words "to solve for safety". NATARI membership is open to professionals who constitute three levels of experience and training. Unique among the organization is the combination of both reconstructionists and investigators, as well as associates.

Below is a snapshot of NATARI benefits:

- Membership from across the US and Canada
- Accident Reconstruction Journal subscription

Further information can be found at: <http://natari.org/>

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**Society of Accident Reconstructionists (SOAR)**

***ACTAR Participating Organization***

The Society of Accident Reconstructionists is an international organization with members representing 8 countries, with members involved in law enforcement, private consulting, governmental research and traffic safety organizations who have a variety of background and experience in traffic accident investigation, crash reconstruction and collision analysis.

Below is a snapshot of SOAR benefits:

- A quarterly newsletter providing articles relating to traffic crash investigation and reconstruction, collision research papers, traffic accident background information and reprints of scientific papers associated with collision investigation and accident reconstruction.
- SOAR offers a complimentary professional referral service, via our website, for inquiries by insurance adjuster, attorneys and fleet operators seeking assistance with traffic accident investigations.
- SOAR offers or co-sponsors periodic training seminars and educational conferences, including WREX 2000, WREX 2016 and WREX 2023, with a reduced registration fee for SOAR members.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.ars-soar.com/>

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## *American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)*

For more than 100 years, we have supported occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals in their efforts to prevent workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities. We provide education, advocacy, standards development and a professional community to our members in order to advance their careers and the OSH profession as a whole.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.assp.org/>

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## **REGIONAL CRASH ASSOCIATIONS**

### **Southwestern Association of Technical Accident Investigators (SATAI)**

#### ***ACTAR Participating Organization***

Below is a snapshot of SATAI benefits:

- SATAI holds two annual conferences in the southwest U.S.
- One of SATAI's two annual conferences involves instrumented crash testing. Attendees are welcome to view the crashes and take their own photos/video of the crashes, collision damage, scene evidence, etc.
- Our non-crash conferences include two days of speaker presentations and our crash conferences include one day of crash tests plus two days of speaker presentations
- All conferences, crash tests, and presentations are included in the membership fee. We do not charge extra for conferences.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.satai.com/>

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### **Midwest Association of Technical Accident Investigators (MwATAI)**

#### ***ACTAR Participating Organization***

The Midwest Association of Technical Accident Investigators, MATAI, was formed to provide a professional affiliation of individuals dedicated to advancement in the technical aspects of motor vehicle traffic accident investigations. Through their affiliation with MATAI, professionals in the field of accident investigation discuss problem areas and work together to improve the process of accident investigation and the presentation of related evidence in court.

Further information can be found at: <http://matai.org/>

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## **INTERNATIONAL CRASH ASSOCIATIONS**

### **Canadian Association of Technical Accident Investigators and Reconstructionists (CATAIR)**

*ACTAR Participating Organization*

Membership in CATAIR is open to people involved in all aspects of traffic transportation safety. This policy allows members to network with other professionals in agencies outside their own, and to develop interrelationships with adjacent professions in order to increase traffic and transportation safety. Presently, CATAIR membership is comprised of active and retired police officers, professional engineers, automotive engineers, Doctors, Fleet Safety personnel, and private consultants throughout Canada, the United States, Asia, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

Further information can be found at: <https://catair.net/>

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### **The Institute of Traffic Accident Investigators (ITAI)**

*ACTAR Participating Organization*

The aim of the Institute is to promote road safety for the benefit of the public by improving the technical and general knowledge and skills of persons involved in the field of investigating road traffic collisions. It promotes the free and open exchange of knowledge and provides a forum for communication, education and representation, through all of which it aims to enhance expertise.

Below is a snapshot of ITAI benefits:

- ITAI is an international members organization that provides a means for communication, education, representation and regulation in the field of Traffic Accident Investigation.
- ITAI provides a route to professional engineering registration for its membership (i.e. EngTech, ICTTEch, IEng and CEng).
- ITAI is piloting an award that will accredit those of its members engaged in forensic roles – this will be launched very soon.
- ITAI produces a four monthly technical journal, 'Impact,' that provides up to the minute developments in knowledge and procedure.
- ITAI provides an annual 'Crash Test & Research Day' as well as periodic conferences.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.itai.org/>

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### **Australasian & South Pacific Association of Collision Investigators (ASPACI)**

*ACTAR Participating Organization*

ASPACI was formed in 1991 by a group of police and collision reconstructionists who felt there was a need for information sharing between police and associated institutions in the Australia,

South East Asia, New Zealand and South Pacific area. Its primary function is to assist in the spreading of knowledge and enhancing expertise in the science. The Association seeks to promote a professional approach to collision investigation and to encourage the highest standard of ethics, integrity and honesty among its members.

Further information can be found at: <http://aspaci.org.au/>

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### ***European Association For Accident Research (EVU)***

The EVU is a pan-European association of experts in the field of accident research and reconstruction. With this website, the EVU aims to pool the expertise of the various professionals in this field, as well as to provide its members with an online 'knowledge base'.

Further information can be found at: <http://evuonline.org/>

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## **STATE-BASED CRASH ASSOCIATIONS**

**A** – none.

**B** – none.

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### **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

#### **California Association of Accident Reconstruction Specialists (CA2RS)**

##### ***ACTAR Participating Organization***

CAARS is a professional non-profit organization created to provide accident reconstruction training and resources to its members. There is a growing need for more local resources in the accident reconstruction field. We are the second largest Accident Reconstruction organization in the United States and have grown to over 400 paid members. We are always looking for ways to strengthen and increase our membership.

A snapshot of the CAARS benefits:

- Quarterly training
- Easily accessible training for local agencies, providing an environment for members to bring case studies, problems, or helpful solutions and tips to share with other professionals in the field.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.ca2rs.com/>

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**D, E, F, G, H** – none.

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### **STATE OF ILLINOIS**

#### **Illinois Association of Technical Accident Investigators (IATAI)**

##### ***ACTAR Participating Organization***

Illinois Association of Technical Accident Investigators (IATAI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the field of accident reconstruction by offering quality training to its members. All training is selected by the training committee, which is comprised of IATAI members.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.iatai.org/>

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## STATE OF INDIANA

### *Indiana Association of Certified Accident Investigators (IACAI)*

The Indiana Association of Certified Accident Investigators is a non-profit statewide association dedicated to the advancement of knowledge in the field of collision investigation and the professional education and training of collision investigators and reconstructionists throughout the State of Indiana. Active Membership is open to all trained collision investigators, employed or retired by a public safety agency, while Associate Membership is open to any trained collision investigator.

Below is a snapshot of IACAI benefits:

- Quarterly one-day training seminars across the state each quarter on current crash investigation topics
- Local training
- A network for crash investigators to reach out for assistance

Further information can be found at: <http://www.iacai.com/>

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**J, K, L** – none.

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## STATE OF MARYLAND

### *Maryland Association of Traffic Accident Investigation (MdATAI)* *ACTAR Participating Organization*

Founded in 1984, the Maryland Association of Traffic Accident Investigators, Inc. is an organization devoted to enhancing the understanding and knowledge in the field of motor vehicle collision investigation and reconstruction and highway safety. With membership throughout the Mid-Atlantic region in both the public and private sectors, MdATAI strives to meet the interests and needs of all members, whether engaged in civil or criminal aspects of collision investigation and reconstruction or highway-vehicle safety. MdATAI offers something for all members from the entry level investigator to the seasoned reconstructionist.

Below is a snapshot of MdATAI benefits:

- Networking with other professionals in the motor vehicle safety and collision investigation/reconstruction field
- Access to specialized conferences and training courses, many offering reduced rates to members
- Subscription to the Accident Reconstruction Journal

Further information can be found at: <http://mdatai.org/>

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## **STATE OF MICHIGAN**

### **Michigan Association of Traffic Accident Investigators (MATAI)**

Formed in 1991, the Michigan Association of Traffic Accident Investigators is an organization designed for investigators and reconstructionists from both the public and private sector, as well as other professionals who share an interest in the field of traffic accident reconstruction. The organization allows members to participate in a continual exchange of ideas and information, keeping them current on changes taking place within this discipline.

Further information can be found at: <http://matai.us/>

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## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

### **New Jersey Association of Accident Reconstructionists (NJAAR) ACTAR Participating Organization**

NJAAR was formed to promote Traffic Safety through accident investigation, and in so doing, promote the welfare of its members. Its purposes are to provide professional standards for members investigating accidents; to promote the continued expansion of members' knowledge in the area of technical accident investigation; to promote Traffic Safety through improving accident investigation; to promote and enhance the expertise of its members through training and the exchange of ideas.

Below is a snapshot of NJAAR benefits:

- NJAAR provides several training/seminars to its membership annually. All training and seminars are eligible for ACTAR CEU
- NJAAR provides members with a periodic publication called MOMENTUM. The publication is free to members and is loaded with information pertinent to the crash reconstruction community.
- Members can choose to receive either a hard or digital copy of the Accident Reconstruction Journal as a benefit of membership.
- NJAAR provides three levels of membership for those involved in the field of crash investigation at any level.
- NJAAR is a co-sponsor of the joint accident reconstruction conference that is held annually each fall with shared support from the NATARI, NAPARS, NYSTARS, and MDATAI organizations.
- NJAAR is a participating organization of the Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstructionists (ACTAR).

Further information can be found at: <http://www.njaar.org/>

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## STATE OF NEW YORK

### *New York Statewide Traffic Accident Reconstruction Society (NYSTARS)* *ACTAR Participating Organization*

The mission of NYSTARS is to organize into one body, professionals in the field of ground vehicle collision reconstruction and related activities, who support and maintain a high standard of ethics, integrity, credibility and honor in the field of collision reconstruction; to provide training programs relating to motor vehicle collision investigation and reconstruction through research and communication of matters of mutual interest; to promote traffic safety, professional contacts and support and foster a spirit of brotherhood among the organization's members. NYSTARS, through its members, also seeks to educate government (state, county and local) agencies and the public about traffic safety. NYSTARS offers training through educational seminars and a yearly conference for its members and other interested professionals.

Further information can be found at: <https://nystars.org/>

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## STATE OF OHIO

### *Ohio Traffic Accident Reconstruction Association (OTARA)*

Ohio Traffic Accident Reconstruction Association (OTARA) is an Ohio based (501C3) accident investigation group. The purpose of this organization is to raise the standard of accident investigations throughout the state of Ohio. We will endeavor to bring quality training and education to all of its members.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.otara.org/>

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## STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

### *Pennsylvania Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Society (PCARS)*

PCARS is a collection of Crash Reconstruction Experts from PA and the world. We support professional networking and training opportunities for all members.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/PCARS1/>

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**Q, R** – none.

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## STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### *South Carolina Association of Reconstruction Specialists (SCARS)*

The South Carolina Association of Reconstruction Specialists (SCARS) was founded in 1998 by a group of South Carolina Highway Patrol officers. Our primary objective is to foster communication in the Collision Reconstruction and Investigation field. SCARS secondary objective is to assist in the training of the investigator/reconstructionist through an annual training conference. Currently, SCARS is comprised of South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers and officers from other states as well as private investigation and engineering fields.

Further information can be found at: <http://scarsrecon.org/>

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## STATE OF TEXAS

### *Texas Association of Accident Reconstruction Specialists (TAARS)*

#### *ACTAR Participating Organization*

TAARS was founded in 1986 as an organization dedicated to advancing Research, Knowledge, Education and Safety in the field of accident reconstruction. TAARS is a broad-based organization with members from many different fields, including law enforcement, private investigators, engineers and attorneys.

Further information can be found at: [www.taars.org](http://www.taars.org)

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U, V – none.

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## STATE OF WASHINGTON

### *Washington Association of Technical Accident Investigators (WATAI)*

#### *ACTAR Participating Organization*

Washington Association of Technical Accident Investigators is committed to provided training at a reasonable price to our members, to provide a community to exchange ideas, and foster professional relationships.

Further information can be found at: <http://watai.ws/>

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