

## Quicker and better reports

ALABAMA STATE Troopers have come up with a new electronic system for accident reports that will standardize the reports and get them out faster.

Motorists and insurance companies should find dealing with accident claims easier, while troopers can process reports and correct errors faster, according to The Birmingham News.

Called eCrash, the system was adapted for use in Alabama by the engineering school at the University of Alabama, which received a grant and then gave the adapted program to the Department of Public Safety. Other agencies have been trained by the troopers to use the system.

With accident reports filed on paper, troopers turned them in at the nearest post. When a supervisor found a mistake, he had to notify the individual trooper to get it fixed. Material left out also delayed the filing of reports with federal agencies that compile national statistics, resulting in complaints.

With eCrash, some drivers may have to wait only a matter of hours to get the reports they need for their insurance companies to begin processing claims. Standardized reports also make statistics more accurate.

The program flags spaces not filled out or obvious errors and refuses to let the trooper send the report until everything is fixed. And there are places to record pertinent information such as whether a driver was texting when the wreck occurred.

The eCrash system also saves DPS money on paper and printing. Overall, it is greener, more efficient, money-saving technology that benefits both troopers and motorists.