WPQ 28030 (2026)

Report Date: 8/07/2026
Data extract date: 7/07/2026
Requester:
Request: ...
1. All crash-pattern analysis, risk assessments, or internal reports relating to fatal and serious crashes on the Desert Road from 1 Jan 2023 to present.
…

Source database: CAS

Please note the following concerning the data contained in this spreadsheet:

- This data is provided from the road traffic crash database; Crash Analysis System (CAS) version 2.14.2
- NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi maintains the CAS which is updated once a Traffic Crash Report (TCR) is received from NZ Police sometime after the crash.
- Due to the police reporting time frame and subsequent data processing, there is a lag from the time of a crash to full and correct crash records within CAS.
- 2026 data is not yet complete in CAS but these are the current figures from CAS as at 7/07/2026.
- Data is for death and serious injury crashes for the years 2023 to 2026 as recorded in CAS to date - 7/07/2026.
- Data is limited to crashes recorded on Desert Road; a section of State Highway 1 between Tūrangi and Waiouru.
- A crash, to be recorded in CAS must have occurred on a road. The CAS definition of a road is any street, motorway or beach, or a place to which the public have access with a motor vehicle, whether as of right or not e.g. a public car park.
- Data relating to fatal, serious injury and minor injury crashes is usually recorded in CAS within one working day of the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi receiving it from NZ Police. Data relating to non-injury crashes is usually recorded in CAS within six weeks of receipt.
- Due to the nature of non-fatal crashes, it is believed that these are under-reported, with the level of under-reporting decreasing with the increasing severity of the crash.
- Crash severity is the severity of the worst injury in the crash. There may be more than one injury in a crash, so the crash and injury tables may have different numbers.
- The cause of a crash cannot necessarily be attributed to any one factor (eg fatigue) as a crash may have multiple factors.
- CAS is continually updated as new information is provided, therefore data regarding injuries, and factors attributed to crashes, may change from that previously released.
- Due to an increased focus by Police to update TCRs with additional information, particularly the outcome of blood test results, the numbers of crashes with Alcohol and or Drugs proven or suspected may change from other data released previously.

For further information, please contact StatisticalAnalysis@nzta.govt.nz

WPQ-28030 (2026) CAS data

This information must be read in conjunction with the Caveats on the first page of this spreadsheet.

2023 - 2026* crashes on Desert Road (SH1)					
Year	**Fatal crashes**	**Serious injury crashes**	**Minor injury crashes**	**Non-injury crashes**	**Total crashes**
2023	2	0	0	0	**2**
2024	0	5	0	0	**5**
2025	1	3	0	0	**4**
2026*	2	0	0	0	**2**
Total	**5**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**13**

Injuries from crashes on Desert Road (SH1) 2023 - 2026*				
Year	**Deaths**	**Serious injuries**	**Minor injuries**	**Total injuries**
2023	2	3	1	**6**
2024	0	5	3	**8**
2025	1	3	2	**6**
2026*	6	2	1	**9**
Total	**9**	**13**	**7**	**29**

* 2026 data is not yet complete in CAS but these are the current figures from CAS as at 7 July 2026

Data extracted from CAS on 7 July 2026

WPQ-28030 (2026) CAS data

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2023 - 2026* crashes on Desert Road (SH1) - details of individual crashes							
Crash severity	**Number of vehicles involved**	**Fatal injury count**	**Serious injury count**	**Movement codes categories**	**Road Safety report movement group**	**Vehicle 1 type**	**Vehicle 2 type**
Serious Crash	2	0	1	Head On Crash	Bend-Lost control/Head on	Car/Wagon	Ute
Serious Crash	1	0	1	Lost Cntl/Str Rd	Straight-Lost control/Head on	Truck	
Serious Crash	1	0	1	Lost Cntl/Str Rd	Straight-Lost control/Head on	Car/Wagon	
Fatal Crash	2	1	0	Head On Crash	Bend-Lost control/Head on	Car/Wagon	Ute
Fatal Crash	2	3	2	Head On Crash	Bend-Lost control/Head on	Car/Wagon	SUV
Serious Crash	1	0	1	Lost Cntl Bend	Bend-Lost control/Head on	Ute	
Fatal Crash	2	3	0	Head On Crash	Straight-Lost control/Head on	Car/Wagon	Truck
Serious Crash	1	0	1	Lost Cntl Bend	Bend-Lost control/Head on	Car/Wagon	
Fatal Crash	2	1	3	Head On Crash	Bend-Lost control/Head on	Truck	Ute
Serious Crash	1	0	1	Lost Cntl Bend	Bend-Lost control/Head on	Car/Wagon	
Serious Crash	1	0	1	Lost Cntl Bend	Bend-Lost control/Head on	Car/Wagon	
Fatal Crash	1	1	0	Lost Cntl/Str Rd	Straight-Lost control/Head on	Motorcycle	
Serious Crash	1	0	1	Lost Cntl/Str Rd	Straight-Lost control/Head on	Ute	

* 2026 data is not yet complete in CAS but these are the current figures from CAS as at 7 July 2026

Data extracted from CAS on 7 July 2026

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Map of 2023 - 2026* crashes on Desert Road (SH1)

Note:

CAS will group crashes that are near each other depending on the zoom level of the map.
This should not be interpreted as where crash hotspots are.
The number in the circle is the number of crashes on that section of highway.
The colours around the circle show the proportion of crashes of different severities - see legend to the right.
Where there are individual crashes that are not grouped, they show as single pin - see legend to the right.
* 2026 data is not yet complete in CAS but these are the current figures from CAS as at 7 July 2026

Diagram Colour Legend

- Fatal Crashes
- Serious Injury Crashes
- Minor Injury Crashes
- Non-Injury Crashes



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Factors contributing to 2023 - 2026* crashes on Desert Road (SH1)	
Crash factor group	**Count**
Alcohol/Drugs both proven	**0**
Alcohol proven	**0**
Drugs proven	**2**
Alcohol/Drugs both suspected	**0**
Alcohol suspected	**2**
Drugs suspected	**1**
Disabled, old age or illness	**0**
Failed to give way or stop	**0**
Fatigue	**2**
Incorrect lanes or position	**2**
Miscellaneous factors	**2**
Overtaking	**0**
Pedestrian factors	**0**
Poor handling	**4**
Poor judgement	**1**
Poor observation	**1**
Position on Road	**4**
Road factors	**2**
Travel Speed	**2**
Vehicle factors	**0**
Weather	**0**
TOTAL factors	**25**

* 2026 data is not yet complete in CAS but these are the current figures from CAS as at 7 July 2026.
Factors are counted once against a crash - i.e. two fatigued drivers count as one fatigue crash factor.
Count is the number of crashes where that factor was a contributing factor to the crash. The Total is the sum of all the factors contributing to crashes.
Because a crash may have multiple factors there will be more total factors than crashes resulting in factors totalling more than 100% of all crashes
Where Alcohol and/or Drugs are a contributing factor to a crash, this factor has been separated into either ‘Proven’ or ‘Suspected’.
Where a crash has both a proven and suspected factor against it, only the factor ‘Proven’ is counted.