

J.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DOT HS 808 253

August 1994

**Final Report** 

# Final Report of a 1991 Ford F150 Pickup Frontal Impact CNG Fuel Tank Integrity

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A gasoline-powered vehicle was converted to operate as a dual fueled (gasoline/CNG) vehicle. The conversion met the minimum standards of National Fire Protection Association Procedure Number 52 (NFPA 52). The purpose of this test was to evaluate the suitability of NFPA 52 for ensuring adequate safety in vehicles converted to CNG after first sale.

This 48 kph frontal barrier impact test was conducted at the Transportation Research Center Inc. on July 11, 1994. The subject vehicle, a 1991 Ford F-150 pickup, VIN 1FTDF15Y8MLA77319, was tested according to the frontal barrier impact test procedures prescribed in FMVSS 303. The actual impact speed was 48.3 kph. In the hour following the impact, a pressure increase of 44 kPa was recorded, which is well within the requirements specified in FMVSS 303 for OEM vehicles.

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# Table of Contents

Section	Title	Page
1.0	Purpose and Test Procedure	1-1
2.0	Frontal Impact Test Summary	2-1
3.0	Camera Information	3-1
Appendix A	Photographs	A-1
Appendix B	Data Plots	B-1
Appendix C	Miscellaneous Test Information	C-1

# List of Tables

Number	Description	Page
1	Crash Test Summary	2-4
2	Test Vehicle Information	2-5
3	Post-Impact Data	2-8
4	Post-Impact Dummy/Vehicle Data	2-10
5	Vehicle Accelerometer Locations and Data Summary	2-13
6	Fuel System Data	2-14
7	Motion Picture Camera Information	3-3

# List Of Figures

Number	Description	Page
1	Impact Velocity Measurement System	2-9
2	Vehicle Crush	2-11
3	Vehicle Accelerometer Placement	2-12
4	Camera Positions	3-2

## List of Photographs

Title	Figure
Pre-Test Front View	A-1
Post-Test Front View	A-2
Pre-Test Left Side View	A-3
Post-Test Left Side View	A-4
Pre-Test Rear View	A-5
Post-Test Rear View	A-6
Pre-Test Right Side View	A-7
Post-Test Right Side View	A-8
Pre-Test Right Front Three-Quarter View	A-9
Post-Test Right Front Three-Quarter View	A-10
Pre-Test Left Rear Three-Quarter View	A-11
Post-Test Left Rear Three-Quarter View	A-12
Pre-Test Engine Compartment View	A-13
Pre-Test Engine Compartment Closeup - View 1	A-14
Pre-Test Engine Compartment Closeup - View 2	A-15
Pre-Test Bed Mounted Fuel Tank View	A-16
Pre-Test Bed Mounted Fuel Tank Closeup View	A-17
Pre-Test Underbody Fuel Tank View	A-18
Pre-Test Underbody Fuel Tank Closeup View	A-19
Pre-Test Fuel Lines - View 1	A-20
Pre-Test Fuel Lines - View 2	A-21
Pre-Test Front Underbody View	A-22
Post-Test Front Underbody View	A-23
Pre-Test Rear Underbody View	A-24
Post-Test Rear Underbody View	A-25
Pre-Test Ballast Location - View 1	A-26
Pre-Test Ballast Location - View 2	A-27

# Section 1.0

Purpose and Test Procedure

#### **Purpose**

This 48 kph flat frontal barrier impact test was conducted for Vehicle Research and Test Center by Transportation Research Center Inc. (TRC). The purpose of this test was to evaluate the suitability of National Fire Protection Association Procedure Number 52 (NFPA 52) for ensuring adequate safety in vehicles converted to CNG after first sale. The subject vehicle for this test was a 1991 Ford F150 pickup.

#### Test Procedure

This test was conducted in accordance with the applicable portions of NHTSA's Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance (OVSC) Laboratory Test Procedure No. TP-301-00, with the addition of vehicle accelerometers. Data was obtained relative to fuel system integrity.

The test vehicle was instrumented with seven (7) accelerometers to measure longitudinal, lateral, and vertical axis accelerations, one (1) thermocouple to measure ambient temperature, and a pressure transducer to measure fuel system pressure. The vehicle impacted the flat barrier in the specified impact velocity range of 47.5 to 49.1 kph.

The test vehicle contained tow (2) uninstrumented Part 572 B 50th percentile adult anthropomorphic test devices (dummies) positioned in the front outboard designated seating positions. The fuel system was filled with nitrogen gas at 20,684 kPa at 21° C.

The seven (7) acceleration data channels were multiplexed and recorded on a 14-track tape drive. The acceleration data was digitally sampled at 12,500 samples per second and processed according to SAE J211 OCT88. The pressure and temperature data was recorded by a Fluke 2625A Data Logger The data logger sampled the data at 2.7 sec/sample.

The crash event was recorded by one (1) real-time panning motion picture camera and five (5) high-speed motion picture cameras.

The vehicle impact data are presented in Section 2.0. Appendix A contains the still photographic prints. Appendix B contains the vehicle data plots. Appendix C contains miscellaneous test information.



## Section 2.0

Frontal Impact Test Summary

#### Test Results Summary

The 48 kph frontal barrier impact test was conducted at Transportation Research Center Inc. on July 11, 1994.

The test vehicle, a 1991 Ford F150 pickup truck, appeared to comply with the proposed performance requirements of FMVSS 303 in the frontal impact mode. The pressure transducer recorded a pressure increase of 44 kPa during the one-hour period immediately following the impact.

The test vehicle was equipped with a 4.9-liter inline engine, manual transmission, power steering, and power brakes. The vehicle's test weight was 2375 kilograms. The vehicle's maximum static crush was 605 millimeters. The vehicle's imapet speed was 48.3 kph.

## **Data Acquisition Explanations**

The right frame rail X-axis accelerometer, RSRXG, did not return to zero following the impact event. The data not returning to zero affected the velocity and displacement calculations.

#### Table 1 Crash Test Summary

Test type:

Frontal Barrier Impact

Test date:

07/11/94

Test time:

1333

Ambient temperature:

24° C

Vehicle year/make/

model/body style:

1991/Ford/F150/pickup

Vehicle test weight:

2375 kg

Impact angle<sup>1</sup>:

0°

Impact velocity<sup>2</sup>:

Primary = 48.3 kph

Secondary = 48.3 kph

Maximum static crush:

605 mm

Dummies:

Driver #258

Passenger #259

Type:

Part 572 B

Part 572 B

Location:

Left front

Right front

Restraint:

3-point unibelt

3-point unibelt

Number of data channels:

7

Number of cameras:

High-speed

Real-time 1

With respect to tow track centerline.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Speed trap measurement (± .08 kph accuracy)

#### Table 2 Test Vehicle Information

Vehicle year/make/

model/body style:

1991/Ford/F150/pickup

Color:

Red and White

VIN:

1FTDF15Y8MLA77319

Engine data:

Placement:

Inline

Cylinders:

6

Displacement

4.9 liters

Transmission data:

4 speed,

X manual,

\_automatic,

overdrive

\_FWD,

X RWD,

4WD

Date vehicle received:

07/08/94

Odometer reading:

15,657

Dealer's name

NA

and address:

Accessories:

Power steering

Power windows

Power brakes

Power seats

Tinted glass

Yes

No

No

Yes

Automatic transmission Automatic speed control Tilting steering wheel

Telescoping steering wheel Air conditioning

Anti-skid brake

Yes Rear only

No

No

No

No

No

Rear window defroster

Radio Clock Other

Yes Yes

Yes None

Certification data from vehicle's label:

Vehicle manufactured by:

Ford Motor Company

Date of manufacture:

06/91

VIN:

1FTDF15Y8MLA77319

GVWR:

2472 kg

GAWR: Front:

1202 kg

Rear:

1436 kg

#### Table 2 Test Vehicle Information, Cont'd.

Size of tires:

P235/75R15

Tire pressure with maximum

capacity vehicle load:

Front:

240 kPa

Rear:

240 kPa

Spare tire:

None

Type of front seats:

Bench

Tire & capacity data from vehicle's label:

Recommended tire size:

P215/75R15 SL

Recommended cold tire pressure:

Front:

240 kPa

Rear:

240 kPa

Designated seating capacity:

Front

NA

Rear

NA

Total

NA

Vehicle capacity weight:

NA

Test vehicle attitude:

Delivered attitude:

805 mm;

807 mm; LR

839 mm; RR

855 mm

Pre-test attitude:

LF 755 mm;

LF

RF 765 mm; LR

755 mm; RR 783 mm

Post-test attitude:

LF 687 mm;

RF

RF

739 mm; LR

820 mm; RR

854 mm

#### Table 2 Test Vehicle Information Cont'd

#### Weight of test vehicle as received (with maximum fluids):

Right front	563	kg	Right rear	485	kg
Left front	548	kg	Left rear	494	kg
Total front weight	1111	kg	(53.2% of total	vehicle	weight)
Total rear weight	979	kg	(46.8% of total	vehicle	weight)
Total delivered weight	2090	kg			

#### Calculation of test vehicle's target test weight:

RCLW<sup>1</sup> = Rated cargo and luggage weight

UDW = Unloaded delivered weight (2090 kg)

VCW = Vehicle capacity weight (NA kg)

DSC = Designated seating capacity (NA)

 $RCLW^{1} = VCW - 68 (DSC) = 136 kg$ 

Target test weight=UDW + RCLW<sup>1</sup> + (Number of Hybrid II dummies x 76 kg/dummy)

Target test weight = 2090 + 136 + 152

Target test weight = 2378 kg

## Weight of test vehicle with required dummies and 133 kg of cargo weight:

Right front	591	kg	Right rear	580	kg
Left front	584	kg	Left rear	620	kg
Total front weight	1175	kg	(49.5% of total	vehicle	weight)
Total rear weight	1200	kg	(50.5% of total	vehicle	weight)
Total test weight	2375	kg	(3 kg under tar	get test	weight)

Weight of ballast secured in vehicle: 96 kg

Components removed to meet target test weight: None

CG rearward of front wheel centerline: 1707 mm

Vehicle wheelbase: 3378 mm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cargo weight for multi-purpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses is the vehicle's rated cargo and luggage weight from the vehicle's label or 136 kg, whichever is less.

#### Table 3 Post-Impact Data

Test number: 940711

Test date: 07/11/94

Test time: 1333

Test type: Frontal barrier impact

Impact angle: 0°

Ambient temperature

at impact area: 24° C

Impact velocity:

Primary 48.3 kph

Secondary 48.3 kph

Specified range 47.5 to 49.1 kph

#### Distance from vehicle to barrier:

Entering velocity trap 356 mm

Exiting velocity trap 51 mm

#### Test vehicle static crush:

Overall length of test vehicle:

Pre-test: L 5431 mm; C 5485 mm; R 5420 mm

Post-test: L 4826 mm; C 4928 mm; R 4943 mm

Total crush: L 605 mm; C 557 mm; R 477 mm

Average crush: 546 mm

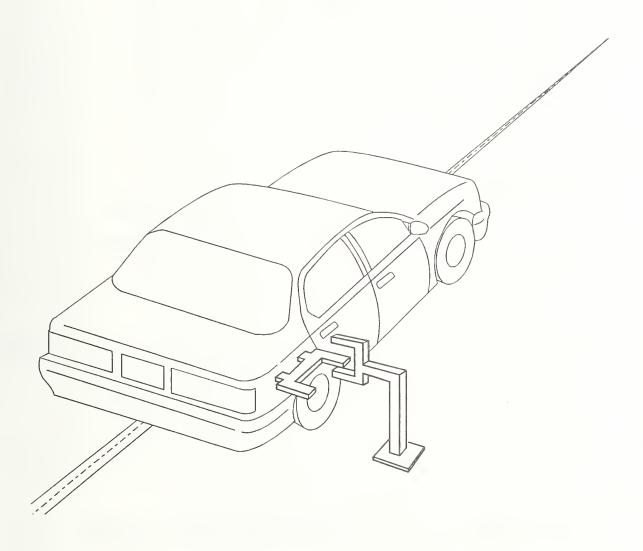
#### Test vehicle rebound from flat barrier:

Distance from test vehicle to barrier:

Post-test: L 339 mm; C 299 mm; R 294 mm

Average rebound 311 mm

Figure 1 Impact Velocity Measurement System



The final vane clears emitter/receiver pair two inches before impact.

The vanes have one-foot spacing.

## Table 4 Post-Impact Dummy/Vehicle Data

## **Visible Dummy Contact Points:**

	Driver #258	Passenger #259
Head	NA	NA
Chest	NA	NA
Abdomen	NA	NA
Left knee	NA	NA
Right knee	NA	NA

## **Door Opening:**

	<u>Left</u>	Right
Front	Difficult	Difficult
Rear	NA	NA

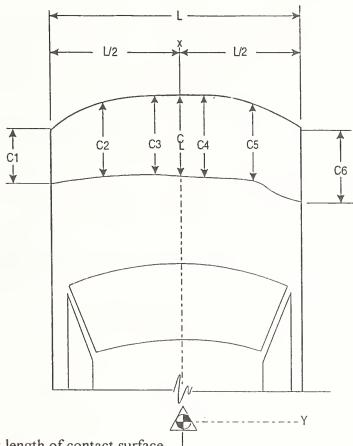
#### **Seat Movement:**

	Seat Back Failure	Seat Shift
Front	None	None
Rear	NA	NA

Glazing Damage: The entire windshield cracked upon impact.

Other Notable Impact Effects: Both front tires deflated on impact.

Figure 2 Vehicle Crush



Notes: L is pre-test length of contact surface.

C1 through C6 are spaced equally apart.

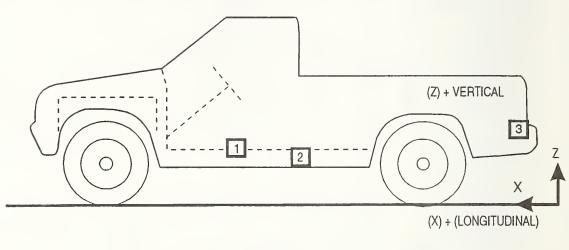
CL is vehicle centerline.

All measurements are in inches.

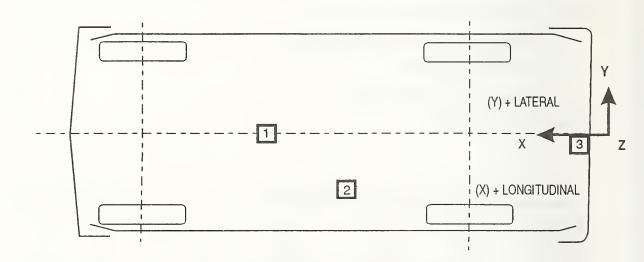
Vehicle: Ford F150 pickup

Pre-test		Post-test		Crush	
L	1855				
C1	5431	C1	4826	C1	605
C2	5470	C2	4883	C2	587
C3	5475	C3	4909	C3	566
C4	5476	C4	4928	C4	548
C5	5460	C5	4915	C5	545
C6	5420	C6	4943	C6	477
CL	5485	CL	4928	CL	557

Figure 3 Vehicle Accelerometer Placement



SIDE VIEW



**BOTTOM VIEW** 

Table 5 Vehicle Accelerometer Locations and Data Summary

TEST NUMBER: 940711 No. LOCATION	×	Y	2	POS: DIRI	POSITIVE DIRECTION	NE DI	NEGATIVE DIRECTION	7E CON
VEHICLE CENTER OF GRAVITY LONGITUDINAL LATERAL VERTICAL RESULTANT	2953 mm	0 mm	673 mm	61.9 8 16.7 8 29.4 8 85.0 8	@ 71.2 ms @ 43.8 ms @ 101.4 ms @ 51.9 ms	80.4 9.3 8 59.9 8	@ @ @	50.8 ms 51.4 ms 53.5 ms
2 RIGHT FRAME RAIL LONGITUDINAL <sup>1</sup> VERICAL	2437 mm	-805 mm	381 mm	36.1 g 23.8 g	@ 11.0 ms @ 82.1 ms	87.5 g 60.4 g	 	57.8 ms 58.4 ms
REAR FRAME CROSSMEMBER LONGITUDINAL VERTICAL	303 mm	0 mm	617 mm	3.8 g 26.0 g	@ 21.4 ms	26.3 g 22.5 g	@ @	47.1 ms 11.6 ms

REFERENCE: X: + FORWARD FROM REAR BUMPER
Y: + LEFTWARD FROM VEHICLE CENTERLINE
Z: + UPWARD FROM GROUND LEVEL

1 See DATA ACQUISITION EXPLANATIONS

#### Table 6 Fuel System Data

Make/Model:

Ford F150/pickup

Fuel Tank Capacity:

114.5 liters total

### Actual Test Pressures and Temperatures:

Time following impact (sec)	Tank pressure (kPa)	Ambient temperature (° C)
168	21,330	24.7
1068	21,345	24.4
1968	21,360	24.3
2868	21,374	24.8
3768	21,374	24.8

Rated Service Pressure:

20,684 kPa at 21° C

Test Gas Type:

Nitrogen

#### Details of fuel system:

One fuel tank was located at the front of the bed. The second fuel tank was located under the vehicle directly behind the cab and outboard of the right frame rail. The fuel lines ran along the left frame rail to the front. The fuel filler was located on the left side.

Fuel injection: Yes

Does electric fuel pump operate with ignition switch "ON" and the engine not operating? No

# Section 3.0

Camera Information

Figure 4 Camera Positions

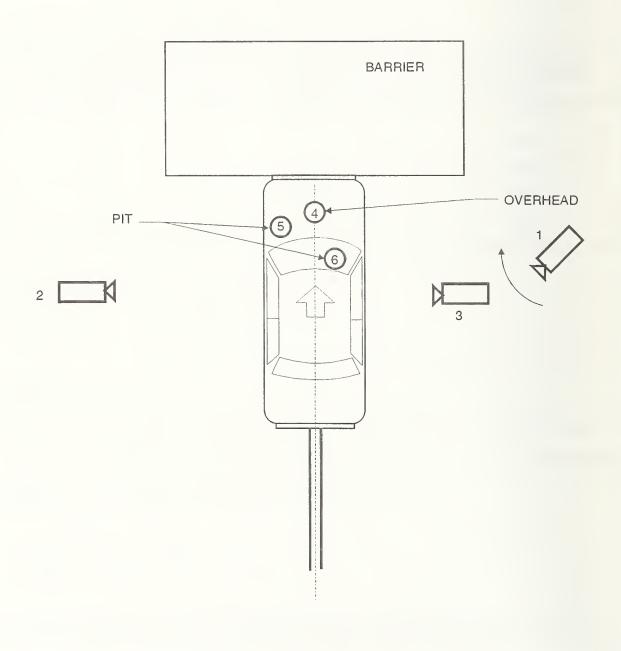


Table 7 Motion Picture Camera Information

Camera Number	Location	Type of Camera	Lens (mm)	Speed (fps)	Purpose of camera
1	Panning	Bolex	120	24	Documentary
2	Left wide	Photosonic	13	500	Vehicle crush
3	Right wide	Photosonic	13	500	Vehicle crush
4	Overhead wide	Photosonic	13	510	Vehicle crush
5	Pit - front	Photosonic	13	1012	Fuel system
6	Pit - Rear	Photosonic	13	1000	Fuel system



Appendix A

Photographs





Figure A-1 Pre-Test Front View



Figure A-2 Post-Test Front View



Figure A-3 Pre-Test Left Side View



Figure A-4 Post-Test Left Side View



Figure A-5 Pre-Test Rear View

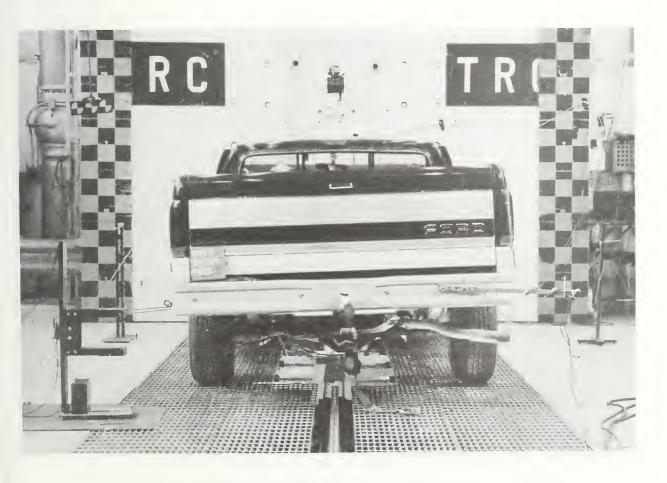


Figure A-6 Post-Test Rear View



Figure A-7 Pre-Test Right Side View



Figure A-8 Post-Test Right Side View



Figure A-9 Pre-Test Right Front Three-Quarter View



Figure A-10 Post-Test Right Front Three-Quarter View



Figure A-11 Pre-Test Left Rear Three-Quarter View



Figure A-12 Post-Test Left Rear Three-Quarter View



Figure A-13 Pre-Test Engine Compartment View

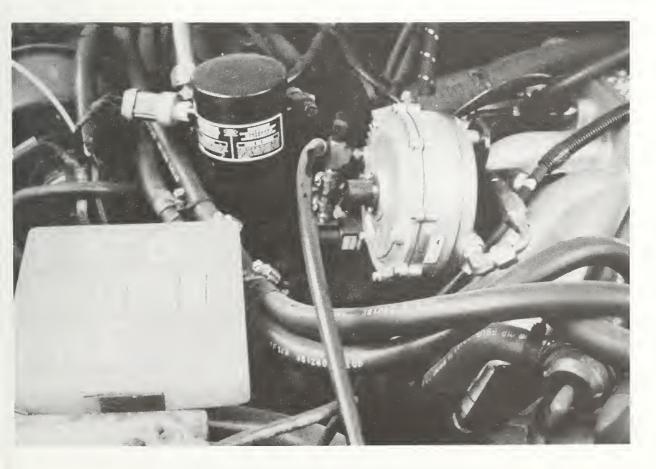


Figure A-14 Pre-Test Engine Compartment Closeup - View 1

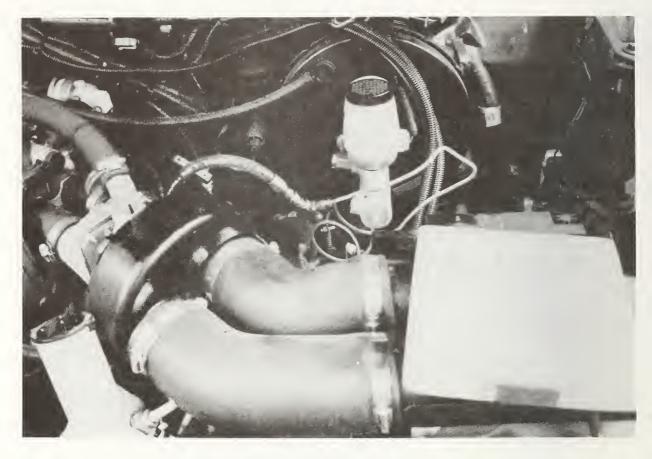


Figure A-15 Pre-Test Engine Compartment Closeup - View 2

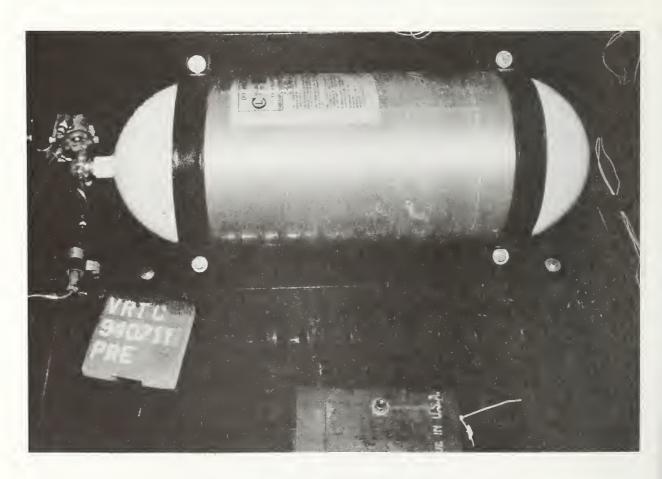


Figure A-16 Pre-Test Bed Mounted Fuel Tank View

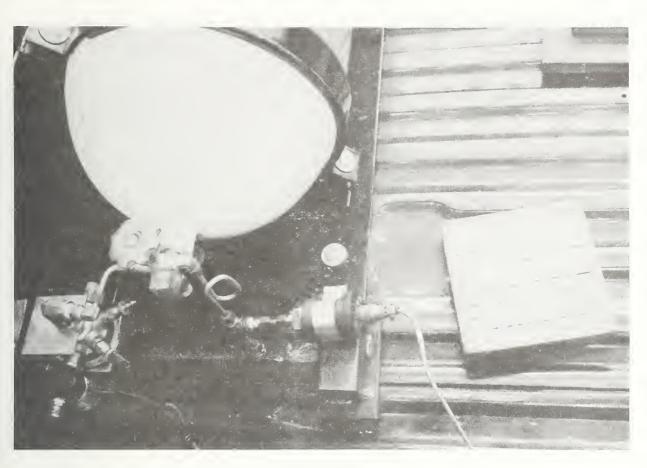


Figure A-17 Pre-Test Bed Mounted Fuel Tank Closeup View



Figure A-18 Pre-Test Underbody Fuel Tank View



Figure A-19 Pre-Test Underbody Fuel Tank Closeup View

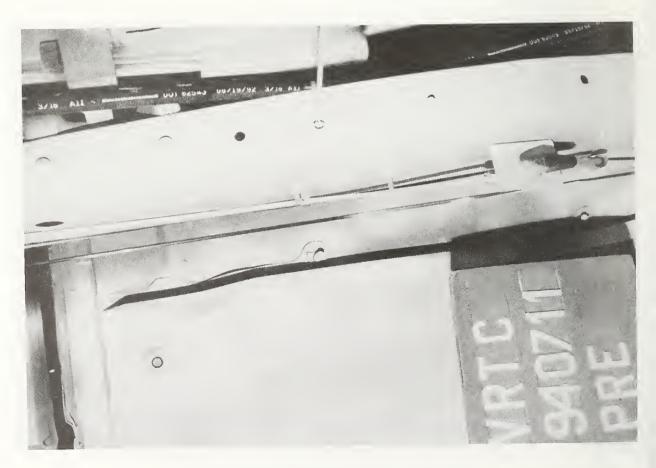


Figure A-20 Pre-Test Fuel Lines - View 1

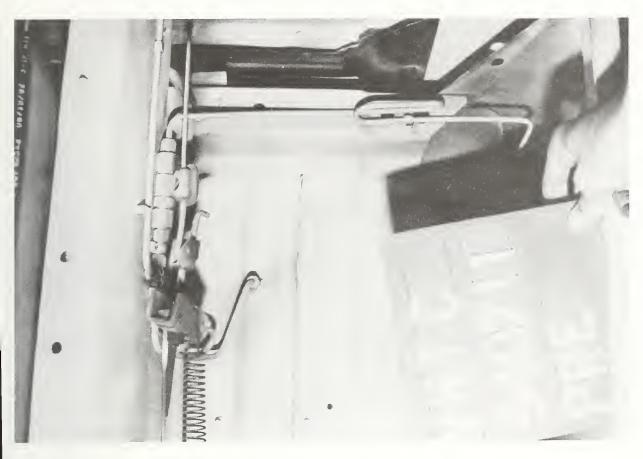


Figure A-21 Pre-Test Fuel Lines - View 2

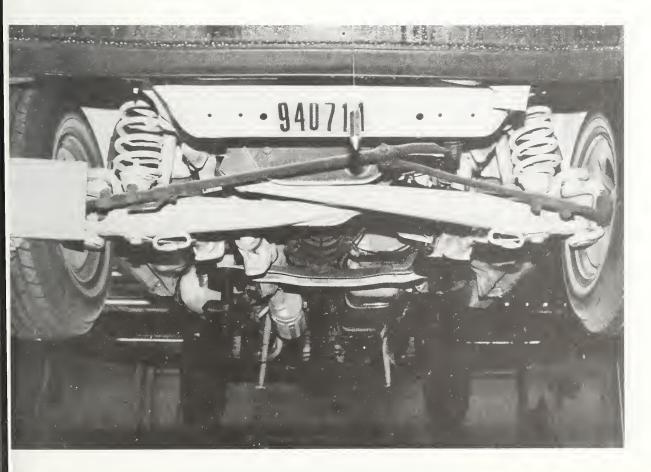


Figure A-22 Pre-Test Front Underbody View

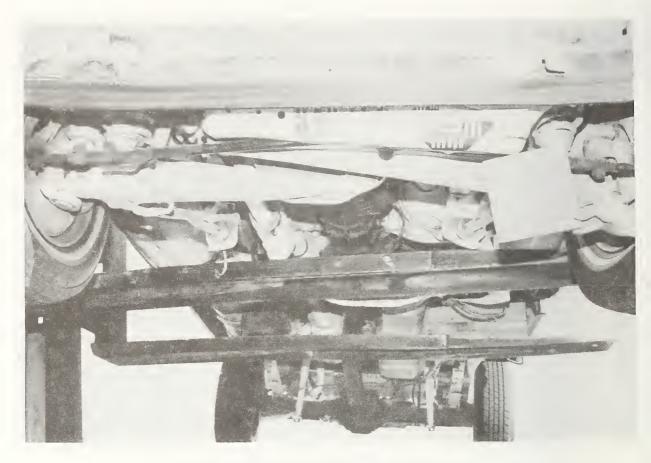


Figure A-23 Post-Test Front Underbody View



Figure A-24 Pre-Test Rear Underbody View



Figure A-25 Post-Test Rear Underbody View

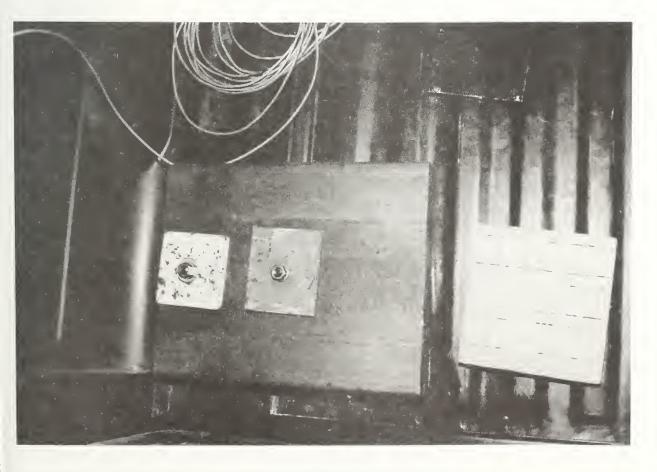


Figure A-26 Pre-Test Ballast Location - View 1

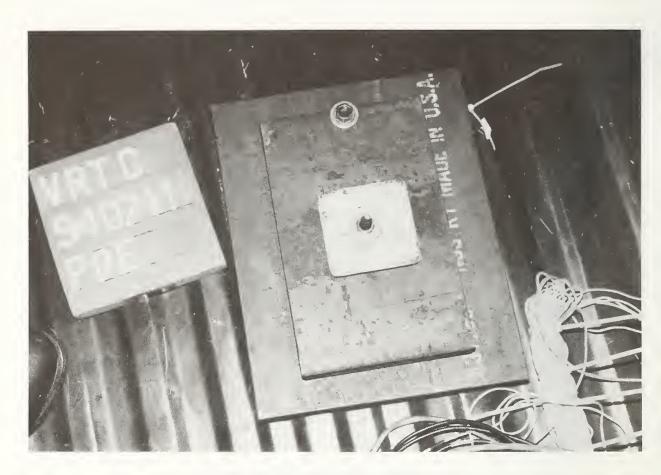
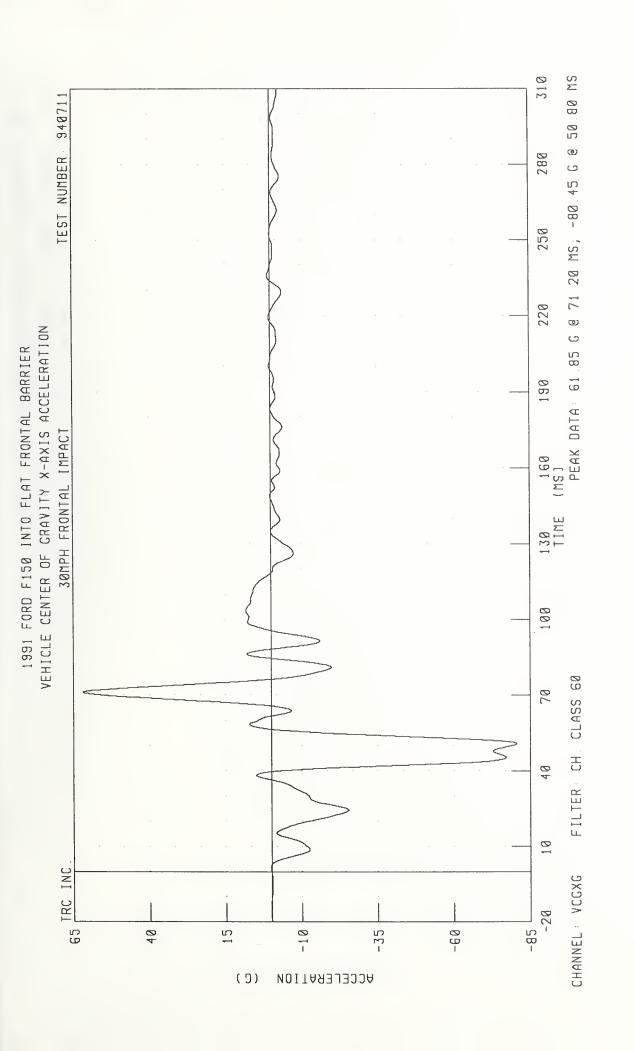


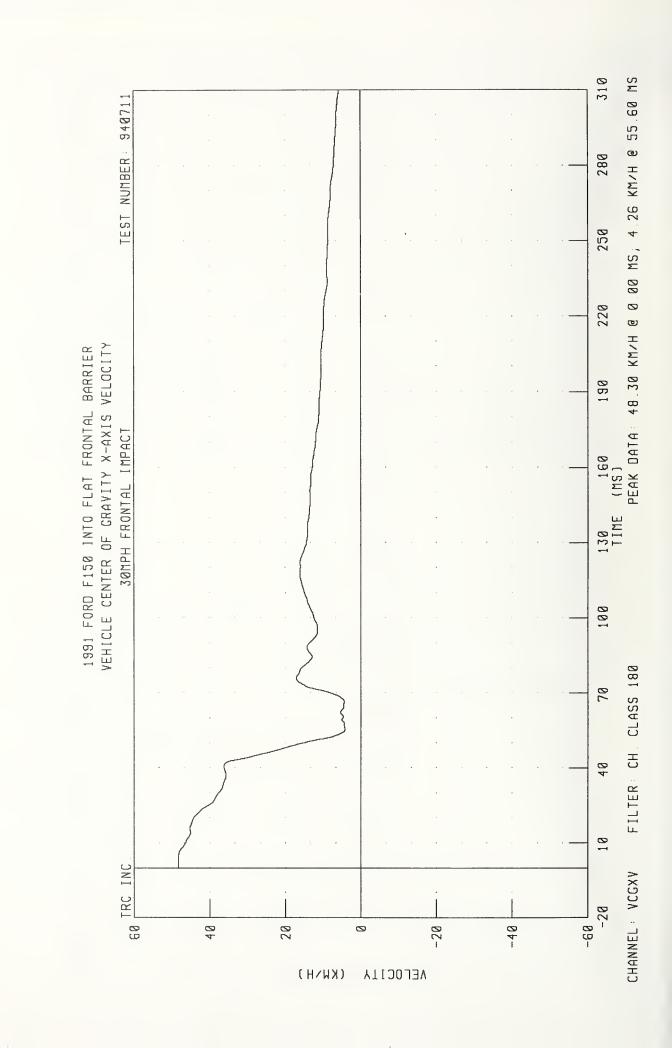
Figure A-27 Pre-Test Ballast Location - View 2

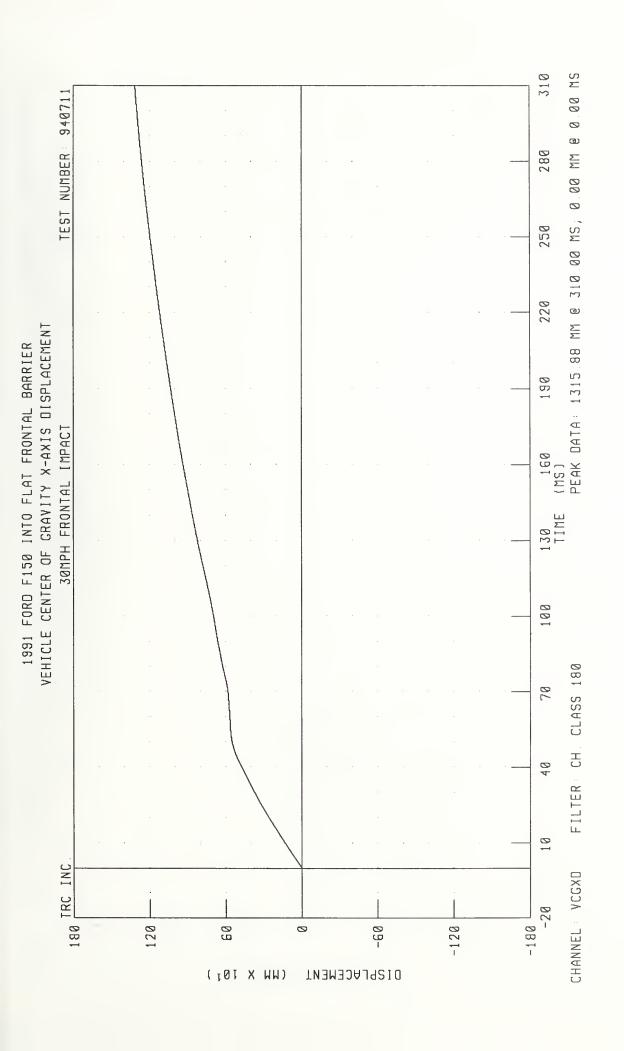
Appendix B

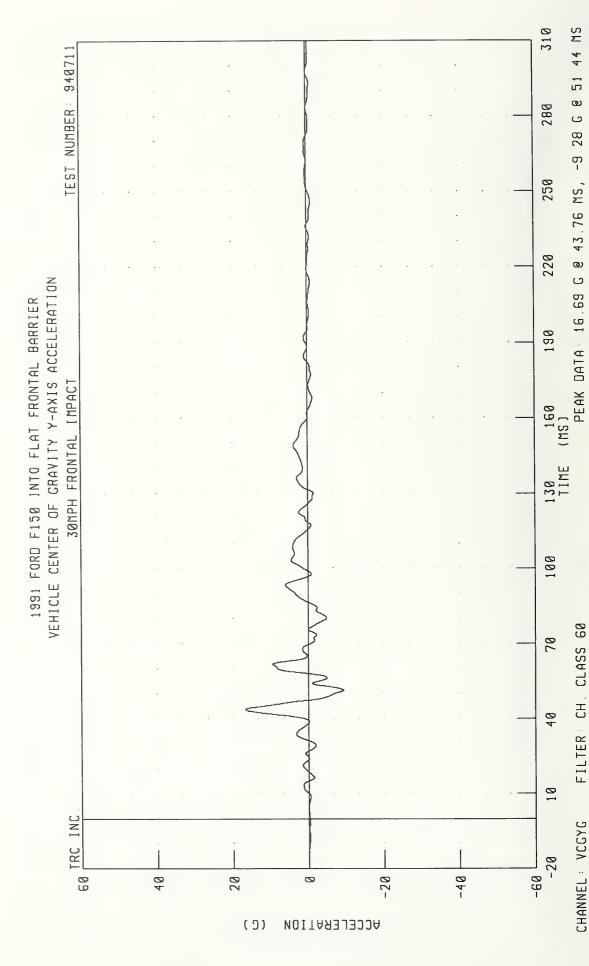
Data Plots







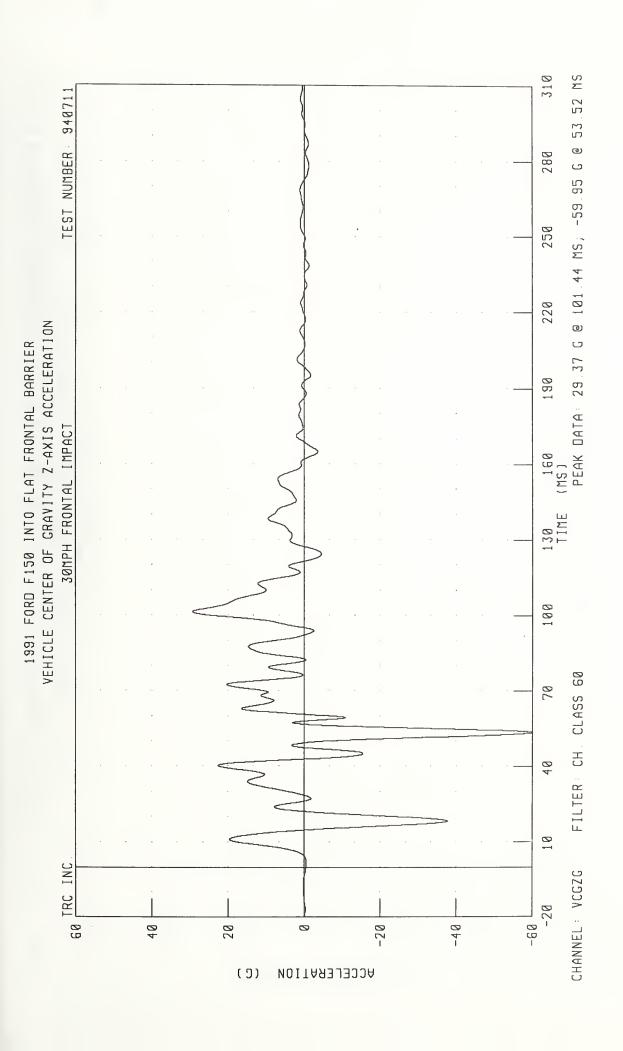




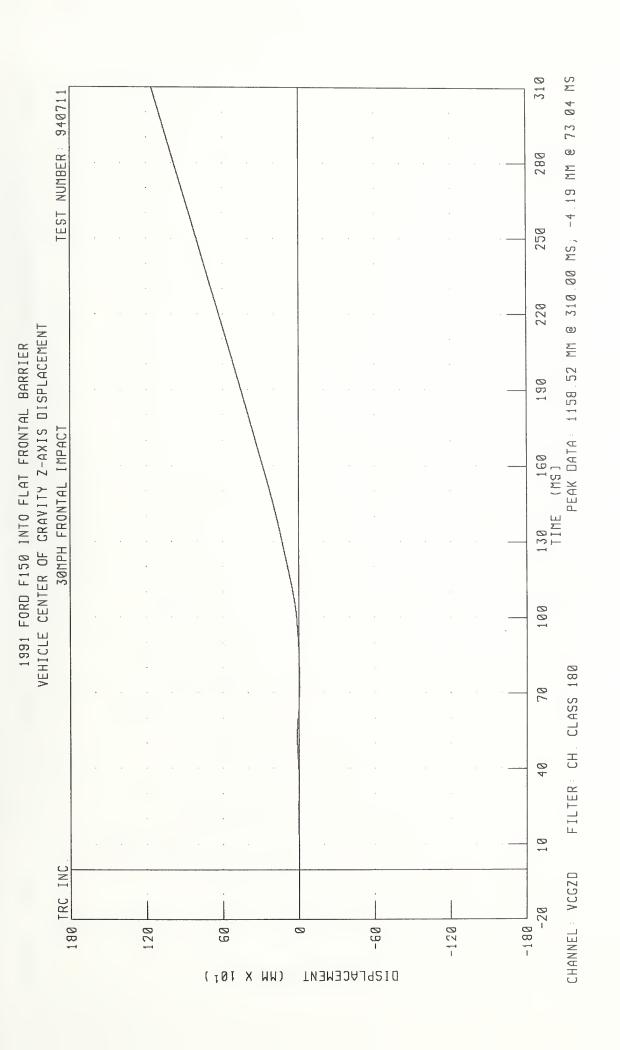
FILTER: CH. CLASS 60

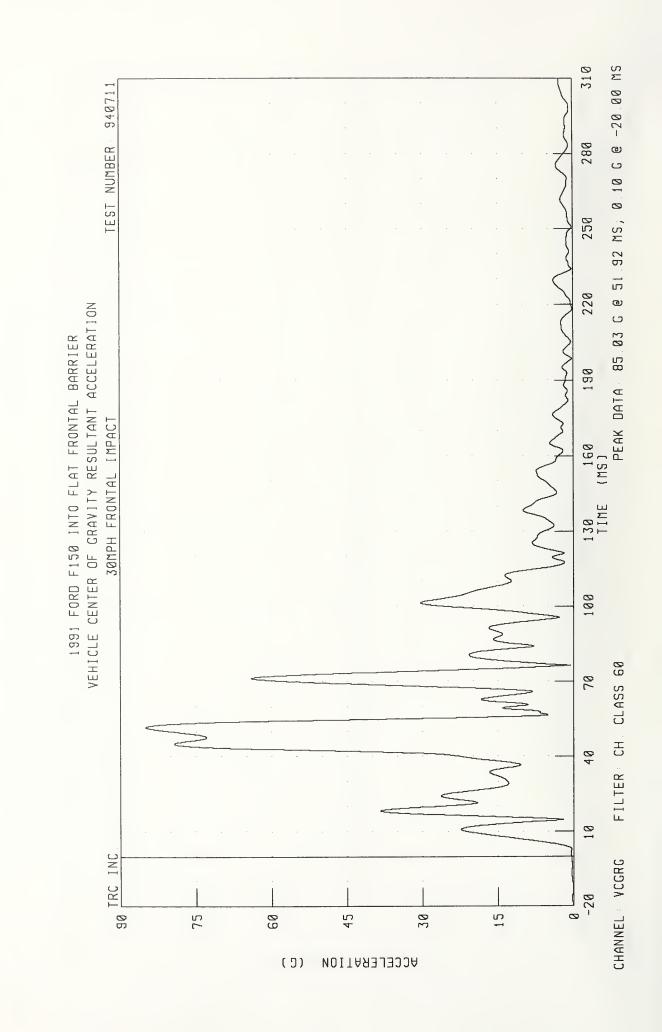
310 6.67 KM/H @ 163.44 MS; -0.14 KM/H @ 10.40 MS 940711 TEST NUMBER: 280 250 220 1991 FORD F150 INTO FLAT FRONTAL BARRIER VEHICLE CENTER OF GRAVITY Y-AXIS VELOCITY 190 30NPH FRONTAL IMPACT PEAK DATA: 160 (MS) 100 FILTER: CH. CLASS 180 40 10 GO TRC INC. CHANNEL : YCGYY 1 09-20 40 -20 -40 0 (KWNH) VELOCITY

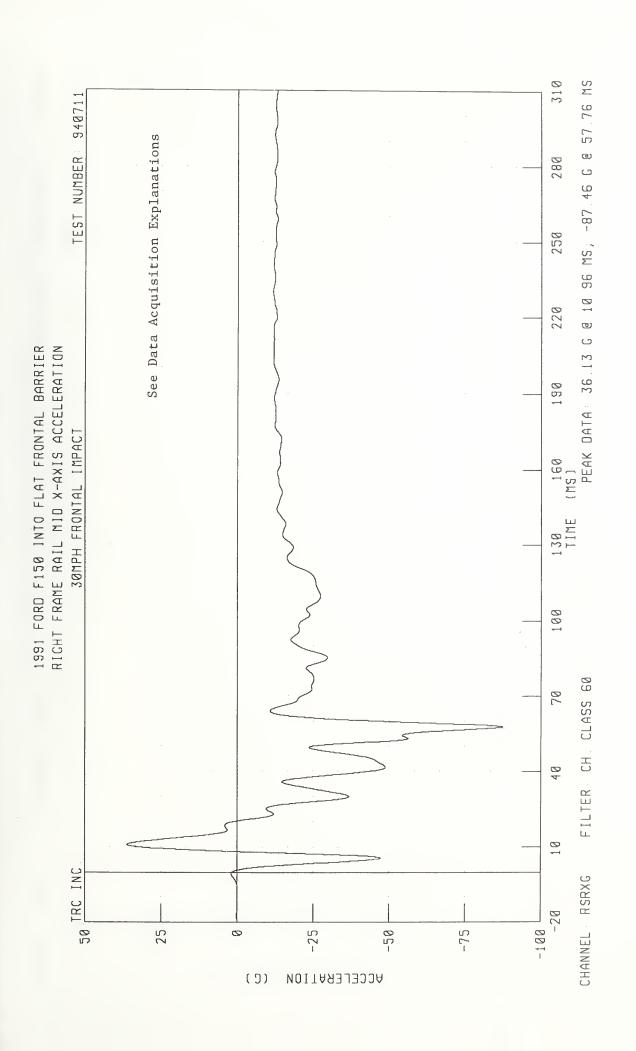
130 160 135 TIME (MS) PEAK DATA: 363.46 MM @ 310.00 MS; -0.12 MM @ 13.68 MS 940711 TEST NUMBER VEHICLE CENTER OF GRAVITY Y-AXIS DISPLACEMENT 1991 FORD F150 INTO FLAT FRONTAL BARRIER 30MPH FRONTAL IMPACT 100 FILTER: CH. CLASS 180 40 10 180 TRC INC CHANNEL : YCGYD -20 -180 120 -120 99 -60 0 ( 101 X HW) DISPLACEMENT

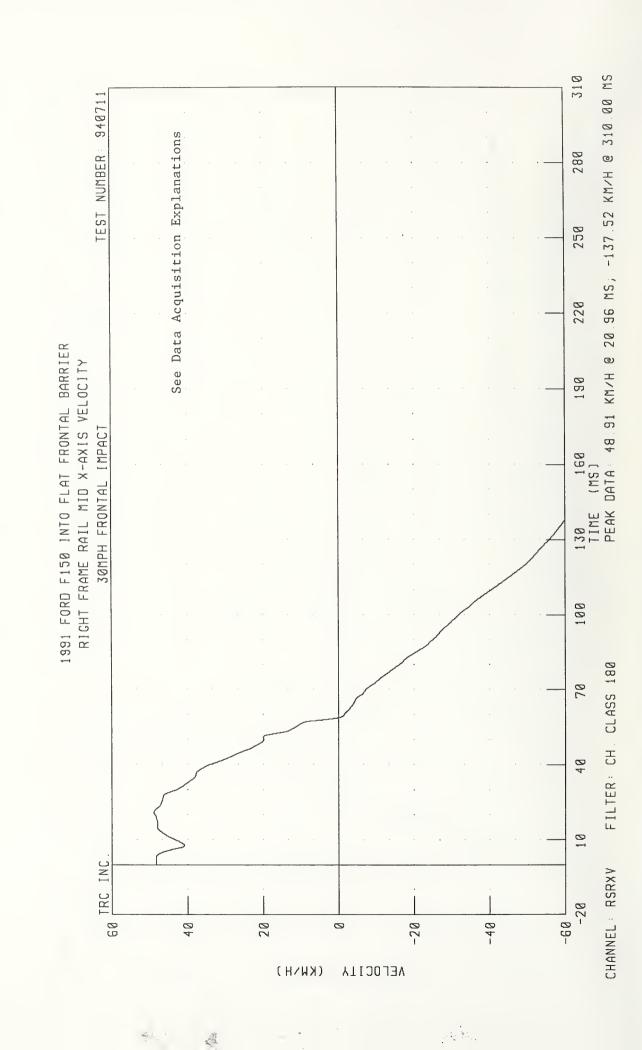


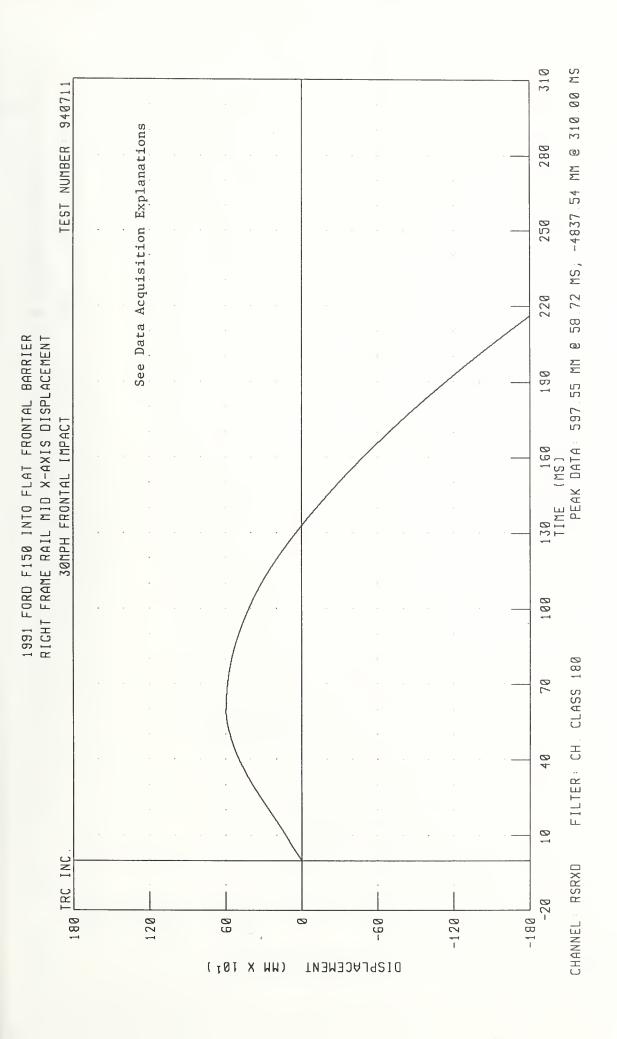
310 21.57 KM/H @ 273.04 MS, -6.65 KM/H @ 60.24 MS 940711 TEST NUMBER 280 250 220 VEHICLE CENTER OF GRAVITY Z-AXIS VELOCITY 1991 FORD F150 INTO FLAT FRONTAL BARRIER 190 30NPH FRONTAL IMPACT PEAK DATA 100 FILTER CH. CLASS 180 70 40 10 GB TRC INC. CHANNEL : VCGZV -60 L 40 20 Ø -20 -40 (KWNH) VELOCITY

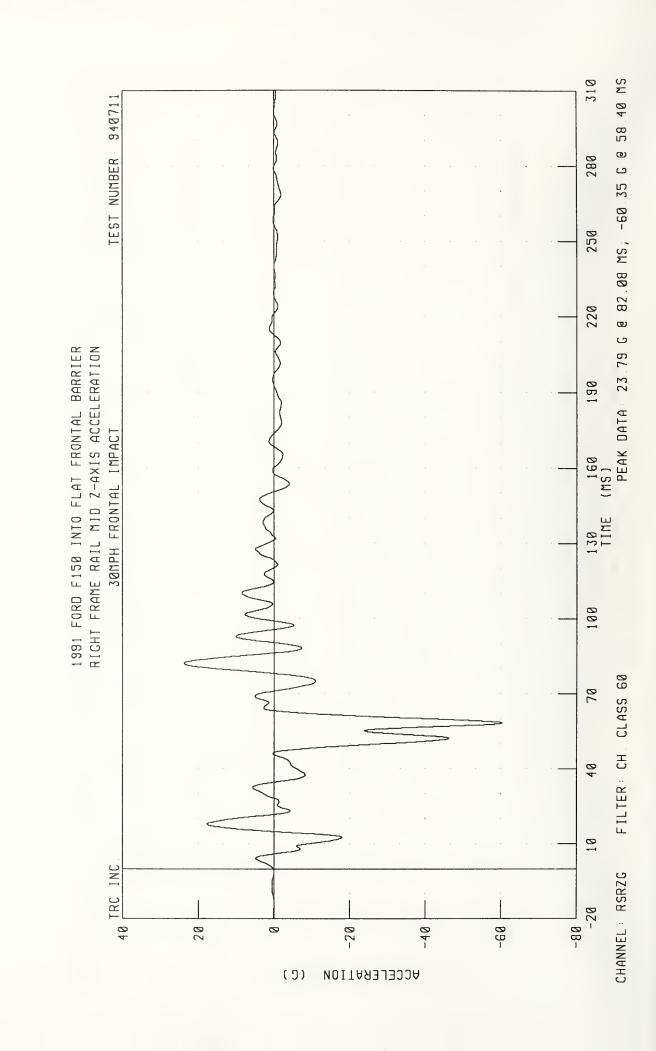




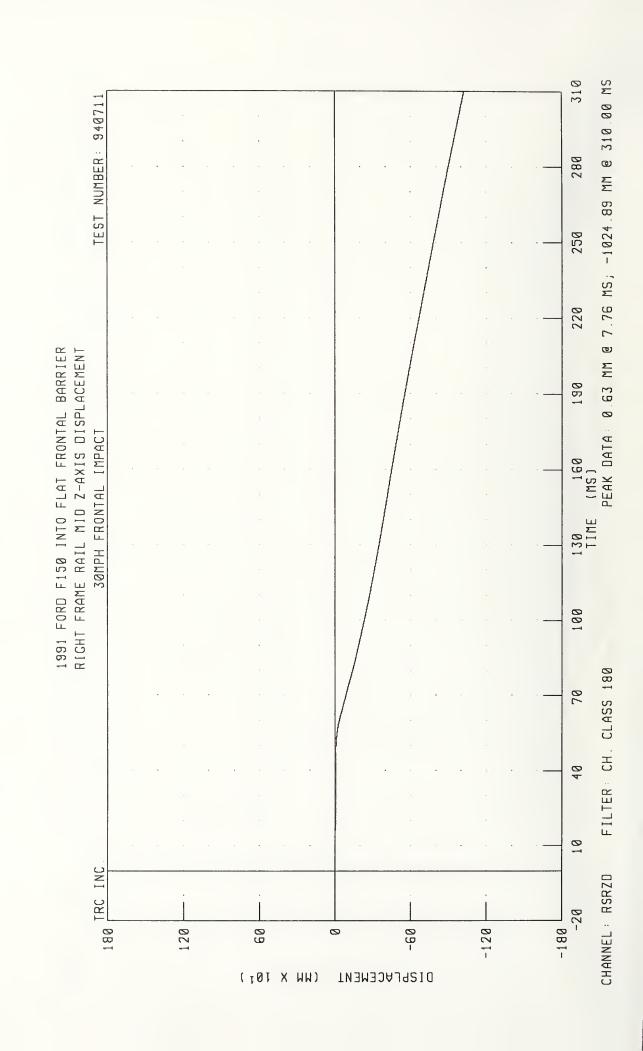


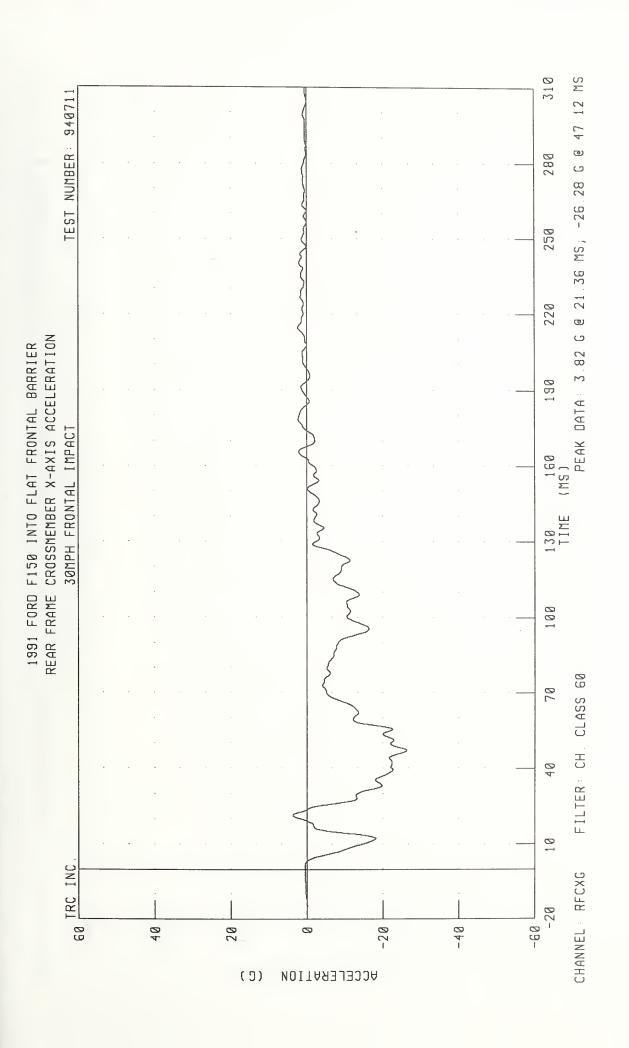


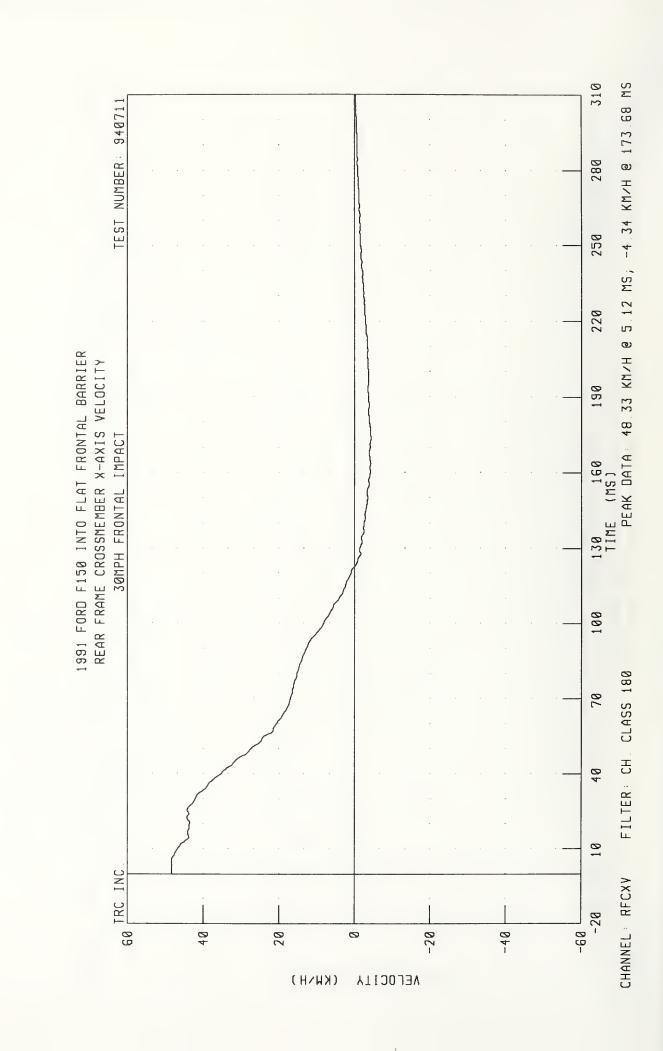




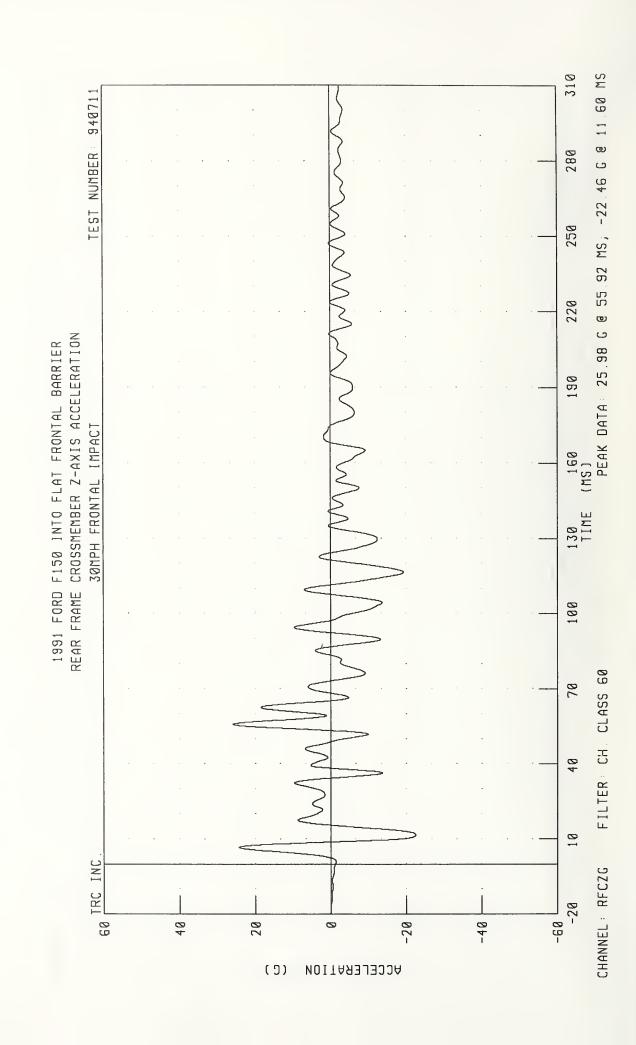
310 PEAK DATA: 0.95 KM/H @ 6.32 MS; -20.34 KM/H @ 79.04 MS TEST NUMBER: 940711 280 250 220 1991 FORD F150 INTO FLAT FRONTAL BARRIER RIGHT FRAME RAIL MID Z-AXIS VELOCITY 190 30MPH FRONTAL IMPACT 160 ( BU) 100 FILTER: CH. CLASS 180 70 40 10 GO TRC INC. CHANNEL : RSRZV -28 1 09-20 40 0 -20 -40 (KWNH) **VELOCITY** 







310 BB MS 940711 0 829 00 MM @ 122.64 MS, 0.00 MM 0 TEST NUMBER: 280 250 220 REAR FRAME CROSSMEMBER X-AXIS DISPLACEMENT 1991 FORD F150 INTO FLAT FRONTAL BARRIER 190 PEAK DATA 30MPH FRONTAL IMPACT 160 (MS) 130 TIME 100 CLASS 180 FILTER: CH. 40 180 TRC INC. CHANNEL : RFCXD -180 L 120 9 99--120 0 DISPLACEMENT ( 101 X HH)



310 PEAK DATA: 7.28 KM/H @ 64.64 MS, -20.82 KM/H @ 310.00 MS 940711 TEST NUMBER 280 250 220 1991 FORD F150 INTO FLAT FRONTAL BARRIER REAR FRAME CROSSMEMBER Z-AXIS VELOCITY 190 30MPH FRONTAL IMPACT 100 FILTER: CH. CLASS 180 70 10 GO TRC INC. CHANNEL : RFCZY 109-40 20 0 VELOCITY (KWNH)

310 PEAK DATA: 97.72 MM 8 117.52 MS, -536.68 MM 8 310 00 MS 940711 280 TEST NUMBER 250 220 REAR FRAME CROSSMEMBER Z-AXIS DISPLACEMENT 1991 FORD F150 INTO FLAT FRONTAL BARRIER 190 30MPH FRONTAL IMPACT 160 (MS) 100 FILTER: CH. CLASS 180 70 10 180 TRC INC. CHANNEL RFCZD -180 9 99--120 120 Ø (WW X 101) DISPLACEMENT

## Appendix C

Miscellaneous Test Information



## Vehicle Instrumentation Information

No.	Location	Axis	Mfr.	Model	S/N	Orientation (+ Sensing)
1	Vehicle center of gravity	X	Endevco	7264	BH14J	Front
		Y	Endevco	7264	BN09J	Left
		Z	Endevco	7264	EJ60J	Up
2	Right frame rail	X	Endevco	7264	BF24J	Rear
		Z	Endevco	7264	BH37J	Down
3	Rear frame crossmember	X	Endevco	7264	AZ67	Rear
		Z	Endevco	7264	BA46	Up



