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Reutimann's crash among hardest ever recorded

By Marty Smith
ESPN.com

The g-force impact during David Reutimann's crash Sunday at California Speedway is among the hardest ever recorded, NASCAR officials told ESPN.com on Monday.

NASCAR doesn't disclose exact figures.

"We can't say it's the hardest [impact], period, because there are so many variables involved," NASCAR spokesman Ramsey Poston said. "But it is among the hardest impacts we've recorded."

Reutimann was riding along one lap down with 11 laps remaining in the Auto Club 500 when Greg Biffle approached from behind. Biffle tapped Reutimann, sending the No. 00 Toyota head-on into the outside wall. The car lifted off the ground and was completely destroyed.

The in-car video feed showed Reutimann slumped over the steering wheel, appearing to be knocked unconscious. But MWR vice president Ty Norris told ESPN.com Monday that Reutimann stressed to the team he was not unconscious, but rather was unable to breathe upon impact.

Norris said Reutimann's left foot is badly bruised, having gotten hung up in the pedals during the crash.

Reutimann flew home with the team Sunday night and slept for some 80 percent of the flight, Norris said. Norris said Reutimann's speech is clear, but he's walking with a noticeable limp.

Reutimann is resting at home, and still plans to run the NASCAR Busch Series race this weekend in Mexico City, Norris said.

Marty Smith covers Nextel Cup for ESPN.com.



**EXAMPLES OF G FORCE
IN AUTO RACING CRASHES**

- 1 G is force of Earth's gravity**
- David Purley experienced 178 G during crash at 1977 British Grand Prix**
- Jerry Nadeau survived crash of 160 G at Richmond in 2003**