

EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE
REGULAR BASIC COURSE
LEARNING DOMAIN 29
TRAFFIC COLLISION INVESTIGATION

Effective date of outline: August 1, 2013

I. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers need to know how to effectively manage traffic collision scenes to ensure their safety, the safety of others and protect the integrity of the collision scene.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Discuss safety hazards that officers should be aware of when approaching the scene of a traffic collision
 - 1. Carefully driving into scene in order not to hurt injured parties.
 - 2. Careful not to destroy physical evidence as entering scene.
 - 3. Setting up a perimeter in order not to have additional traffic collisions
- B. Demonstrate appropriate peace officer actions when managing a vehicle collision scene, including:
 - 1. Caring for injured and involved parties
 - 2. Protecting the collision scene
 - 3. Collecting and preserving evidence

II. LEARNING NEED

To accurately determine the events and factors associated with a collision, peace officers must recognize the types and importance of evidence likely to be available at a collision scene.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Distinguish between different types of physical evidence that may be located at a collision scene and recognize the type of information they may provide
 - 1. Physical evidence: debris, fluids, road scars and tire marks.
 - 2. Documentation: notes, photographs and videotapes.
 - 3. Findings: all can provide a piece of a puzzle that can prove or disprove existence or non existence of a fact.
- B. Distinguish between a skid mark and a tire impression
 - 1. Skid mark: Darkened roadway material left by a tire that is not free to rotate and/or sliding or slipping over a surface.
 - 2. Tire Impression: Mark left by a rotating tire that has gone through a liquid or other soft material leaving a print of the tires tread pattern. May also be found in snow, slush, sand, mud, grass.
- C. Describe ways of linking a tire mark with a particular vehicle
 - 1. Check condition of vehicles tires
 - 2. Compare the width of the tires in relation to the width of the tire mark
 - 3. Compare the track width of the vehicle to the skid mark
 - 4. Look for sidewall scuffing

5. Determine the number and condition of the grooves
 6. Note the position of the vehicle at the collision scene.
- D. Classify the three causes of skid marks
1. Extreme deceleration
 2. Extreme acceleration
 3. Extreme change of direction
- E. Describe the variables to consider when determining the order of taking measurements at a vehicle collision scene
1. Highway features
 2. Fixed objects
 3. Physical evidence
 4. Collision related points
- F. Determine appropriate reference points/lines to use when taking measurements at a vehicle collision scene
1. Monuments
 2. Roadway markings
 3. Traffic devices
- G. Distinguish between primary collision factor and associated collision factor
1. Primary Collision Factor is Officers best opinion describing primary or main cause of the collision.
 2. Associated Collision Factor: factor that contributed to the collision but it is not the main cause.

III. LEARNING NEED

Evidence collected at a collision scene can be rendered useless or inadmissible if it is not properly documented. Peace officers must recognize and follow standardized documentation formats for traffic collisions to ensure that the evidence they collect is understandable and usable by other officers, and other agencies.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Describe the components of standardized reporting formats used to document a collision
1. Standardized reporting documents may include basic components depending on the report form used.
- B. Distinguish between the types of collision documentation, including:
1. Collision investigation format
 2. Collision report format
- C. Prepare components of a traffic collision report, including:
1. Description of injuries
 2. Identification of involved parties and vehicles
 3. Time and location of collision events

4. Chronology of the collision events
 5. Elements unique to hit-and-run and DUI collisions
 6. Primary and associated collision factors
 7. Area(s) of impact
 8. Scene sketch
- D. Distinguish between information to be included in the narrative of a collision investigation format under each of the following categories:
1. Facts
 2. Statements
 3. Opinions and conclusions
 4. Recommendations
- E. Distinguish between a collision sketch and a factual diagram
1. Collision sketch: an illustration of the collision scene that reflects the investigating officer's opinions as how the vehicle collision occurred.
 2. Factual diagram: drawing of the collision scene that represents the scene as it was found upon the officer's arrival.
- F. Prepare content features and elements to be included on a:
1. Collision scene sketch
 2. Factual diagram

IV. REQUIRED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- A. Given a simulated traffic collision problem, the student will participate in a learning activity that will reinforce the student's understanding of traffic collision investigative techniques, including:
1. Determining compass direction
 2. Methods to determine the area(s) of impact
 3. Identification of physical evidence
 4. Scene measurement techniques
- B. The student will participate in a Learning Activity involving a traffic collision scene. The student will demonstrate the following:
1. An understanding of an officer's responsibilities at a traffic collision scene, including:
 - a. Protection of injured parties and the collision site
 - b. Performance of investigative tasks
 - c. Completion of a traffic collision report
 2. The ability to manage a traffic collision scene, including:
 - a. Establishing scene priorities and developing a plan of action
 - b. Identifying and controlling scene hazards
 - c. Providing first aid for the injured parties
 - d. Protecting the collision site
 - e. Evaluating and requesting additional assistance, if needed
 3. The ability to perform traffic collision investigative tasks, including:
 - a. Identifying and preserving collision evidence
 - b. Information gathering and interviewing of involved parties or witnesses
 - c. Establishing the area(s) of impact

- d. Determining the primary collision factor
- 4. The ability to complete a traffic collision report, including:
 - a. Description of injuries
 - b. Identification of involved parties and vehicles
 - c. Time and location of collision events
 - d. Chronology of the collision events
 - e. Elements unique to hit and run and DUI collisions
 - f. Primary and associated collision factors
 - g. Area(s) of impact
 - h. Scene sketch
- 5. The ability to complete a legible traffic collision sketch that records the officer's opinion as to how the collision occurred which includes:
 - a. Compass direction
 - b. Basic measurements of the roadway
 - c. Appropriate symbols/illustrations
 - d. Area(s) of impact
 - e. Travel paths of vehicles and parties involved
 - f. Reference points and direction
 - g. Items labeled appropriately (parties, streets, signs, etc.)

V. HOURLY REQUIREMENTS

Students shall be provided with a minimum number of instructional hours on traffic accident investigation.

Description	Hours
POST Minimum Required Hours	<u>12</u>
Agency Specific Hours	<u>2</u>
Total Instructional Hours	<u>14</u>