

Basic Training Module Specifications

Functional Area: V. Traffic  
Subject Area: E. Motor Vehicle Crash Investigation  
Module Title: 4. LOCATING AND IDENTIFYING TRAFFIC  
CRASH VICTIMS AND WITNESSES  
Hours: 1

Notes to Instructor:

Module Objectives:

V.E.4.1. Identify Persons Involved in a Traffic Crash.

- a. Identifies the driver and passengers of a crash vehicle by:
  - (1) asking the persons at a traffic crash scene,
  - (2) interviewing the persons at a traffic crash scene, separately, if information is not volunteered, and/or
  - (3) interviewing the registered owner of the crashed vehicle, when necessary.
- b. Searches the scene of the traffic crash for persons who may have witnessed the crash.

V.E.4.2. Identify the Owner of a Vehicle Involved in a Traffic Crash.

- a. Interviews the person who claims to be the registered owner to determine the current ownership (e.g., car may have recently been sold and computer records not been updated).
- b. Checks the appropriate documents to establish the vehicle ownership, if available (e.g., checks registration, title).
- c. Requests vehicle registration information from Secretary of State using the VIN or license plate number.

V.E.4.3. Locate Witnesses to a Traffic Crash.

- a. Asks drivers and bystanders if they can identify witnesses to the traffic crash.
- b. Solicits possible witnesses by asking bystanders if they know what happened and not referring to them as witnesses.
- c. Records license plate numbers or other identifying information that can be used to trace possible witnesses to traffic crashes.
- d. Canvasses the neighborhood to determine the identity of possible witnesses to a traffic crash.
- e. Requests the media to assist with locating witnesses to a traffic crash.

V.E.4.4. Interview Persons Involved in a Traffic Crash.

- a. Separates the persons involved in traffic crash.
- b. Advises the person of his/her constitutional rights, if necessary.
- c. Arranges for an appropriate place to interview persons involved in traffic crash (e.g., interview in patrol car, if possible, rather than on shoulder of road).
- d. Interviews the persons involved in a traffic crash to obtain relevant information (e.g., person's location in vehicle, person's account of incident, what person was doing at time of the crash, what person's relationship is to driver, etc.).
- e. Obtains a written statement from persons involved in traffic crash by recording their statements or requesting them to write out statements.
- f. Arranges for persons involved in traffic crashes to repeat statements in each other's presence, when necessary.

**Module History**

Revised 1/05