

Basic Training Module Specifications

Functional Area: II. Patrol Procedures
Subject Area: C. Patrol Techniques
Module Title: 2. PATROL AREA CHECKS
Hours: Not less than 4 hours

Notes to Instructor:

Module Objectives:

II.C.2.1. Check Parks and School Grounds.

- a. Identifies ordinances and laws related to prohibited activity in parks and on school grounds.
- b. Patrols parks and school grounds at random times, checking secluded and problem areas for violations and illegal acts.

II.C.2.2. Search Unlocked Businesses and Dwellings for Signs of Illegal Entry.

- a. Notifies dispatcher of unlocked building.
- b. Secures building perimeter using backup unit(s), if necessary.
- c. Visually checks outside of building for signs of entry (e.g., pry marks, broken windows, footprints, ladders).
- d. Enters building in safe and cautious manner, checking for points of entry (e.g., entry from adjacent buildings and/or roof). (Addressed in detail in Responding to Crimes in Progress.)
- e. Evaluates information gathered in search to determine next course of action (e.g., notifying owner, conducting further investigation, securing building).

II.C.2.3. Secure Buildings.

- a. Physically examines access points of dwellings and business to ensure they are adequately secured.
- b. Secures a dwelling or business.
 - (1) notifies owner to secure dwelling or business.
 - (2) determines appropriate method of securing dwelling or business, if owner is not available, based on visual and manual inspection.
 - (3) secures the property (e.g., impounds portable property, nails or locks up fixed property).
 - (4) notifies dispatcher to request further checking of secured property, when deemed necessary.

II.C.2.4. Check Individuals/Businesses for Compliance with Licensing Requirements.

- a. Identifies those activities that require licenses (e.g., hunting, selling liquor, selling as a vendor, etc.).
- b. Checks individuals/businesses for compliance with licensing requirements (e.g., examines and validates license, checks with licensing authority).
- c. Takes appropriate enforcement action against violators of licensing requirements through appropriate authority.

II.C.2.5. Advise Property Owners or Agents of Potentially Hazardous Conditions.

- a. Evaluates hazardous condition in terms of its severity (e.g., potential for physical danger to public).
- b. Secures the area to prevent injury to people in the area.
- c. Notifies owner or agent of:
 - (1) hazardous condition,
 - (2) actions to be taken, and
 - (3) consequences of failure to comply with request.
- d. Verifies that owner or agent has taken appropriate corrective action to correct hazardous condition.
- e. Notifies proper non-police authorities if owner or agent fails to correct hazardous condition.

II.C.2.6. Notify Citizens of Damage to Their Property.

- a. Determines ownership of property that has been damaged by checking appropriate records or talking to neighbors.
- b. Notifies owners about nature and source of damage to their property using proper procedures (e.g., notifies owner in person or by phone, when available; requests neighbors or relatives to notify owner, when owner is unavailable).

II.C.2.7. Secure Vehicles.

- a. Determines the degree of security required to secure the vehicle.
- b. Secures vehicle using appropriate procedures (e.g., impounds vehicle, locks vehicle at scene, removes or secures valuables from vehicle interior).
- c. Documents action taken in securing vehicle.

II.C.2.8. Investigate an Unattended Suspicious Vehicle.

- a. Notifies dispatcher of location and registration number of suspicious vehicles.
- b. Observes suspicious vehicle in its environment to identify possible criminal activity before approaching suspicious vehicle cautiously.
- c. Investigates suspicious vehicle using proper procedures (e.g., views interior of vehicle for contraband or weapons, verifies identification of vehicle by checking VIN physically or through LEIN, reinvestigates vehicle if remains in same location).
- d. Impounds suspicious vehicle if found to be wanted, stolen or a traffic hazard.

II.C.2.9. Follow a Suspicious Vehicle.

- a. Determines whether vehicle should be followed by observing vehicle and occupants to check for unusual or illegal activities or circumstances (e.g., behavior that is consistent with reasonable behavior in such circumstances, erratic driving, jerky starting and stopping, furtive gestures, persons or vehicles matching descriptions).
- b. Follows vehicle containing a suspicious person at an inconspicuous distance while observing for any illegal activity or verification of information on want/warrants.
- c. Take appropriate enforcement action, if warranted.

II.C.2.10. Investigate Unusual Odors and Sounds.

- a. Investigates unusual odors.
 - (1) Determines nature, location, and source of an odor using sense of smell.
 - (2) Notifies dispatcher of situation, providing all necessary information (e.g., nature and cause of odor).
 - (3) Informs the appropriate non-police department or agency of the problem (e.g., public works, gas company, specialized units).
 - (4) Secures area if environmental hazard exists.
- b. Investigates unusual sounds.
 - (1) Locates nature and source of a sound by listening and/or interviewing individuals (e.g., complainants, witnesses).
 - (2) Notifies dispatcher of situation, providing all necessary information (e.g., informs dispatcher that sound is unfounded family dispute, automobile backfire, animal noise, etc.).
 - (3) Takes appropriate action to terminate cause of sound.

II.C.2.11. Identify Wanted Vehicles or Persons.

- a. Observes area, checking for any unusual activity or suspicious persons or vehicles.
- b. Compares description of persons or vehicles to information on wanted persons/stolen vehicles lists.
- c. Verifies identification of:
 - (1) person by using driver's license, state identification card, etc., and
 - (2) vehicle by using vehicle registration, and/or VIN.
- d. Confirms validity of want/warrant prior to arrest or impoundment.

II.C.2.12. Interview Suspicious Persons.

- a. Observes to determine that person's actions are suspicious (e.g., person makes furtive gestures and movements, person is in certain areas at inappropriate times).
- b. Requests back-up assistance if determined necessary by considering number of persons, behavior of persons, and type of setting.
- c. Approaches suspicious persons cautiously:
 - (1) Selects a location advantageous to the officer;
 - (2) stands with a minimum of exposure promoting weapon retention.

II.C.2.12. Interview Suspicious Persons (continued).

- d. Interviews suspicious person by:
 - (1) advising person of the reason for the interview;
 - (2) asking person reason for being in the area; and
 - (3) requesting identification from person, if deemed appropriate.
- e. Frisks suspicious person when officer fears for personal safety.
- f. Checks for wants and warrants, if deemed necessary.
- g. Determines whether to terminate interview with suspicious person with an arrest or release based on information collected in interview.

II.C.2.13. Participate in Large Scale Area Search Parties.

- a. Receives specific instructions from search coordinator (e.g., information on object sought and assigned area of responsibility).
- b. Searches assigned area properly using a systematic approach (e.g., grid, circular).
- c. Secures immediate area where any possible evidence is found without disturbing the object.
- d. Notifies search coordinator that possible evidence has been located, while staying at location of found object.
- e. Documents actions taken in search.

II.C.2.14. Escort Money, Valuables or People to Provide Security.

- a. Determines the nature of the escort and the destination.
- b. Determines method for providing security during the escort e.g., route and alternate route, number of officers needed, etc.)
- c. Notifies dispatcher of situation, providing all necessary information (e.g., location, destination, type of call, situational update).
- d. Provides inconspicuous escort according to plan.
- e. Coordinates with other agencies to protect persons and/or items.

II.C.2.15. Develop Informants Using Field Contacts.

- a. Talks to people on the beat in a courteous and professional manner.
- b. Listens to people on the beat to establish field contacts (e.g., avoids interrupting them, allows them to give their opinions, shows an interest in their concerns).
- c. Explains to people on the beat how exchanging information with officers will be beneficial to everyone in order to encourage people to become field contacts.

Module History:
Revised 04/07