

Basic Training Module Specifications

Functional Area: V. Traffic

Subject Area: B. Vehicle Stops

Module Title: 2. OBSERVATION AND MONITORING OF TRAFFIC

Hours: Not less than 2 hours

Notes to Instructor:

Module Objectives:

V.B.2.1. Monitor Traffic for Violations.

- a. Positions the patrol vehicle to provide:
 - (1) normal flow of traffic,
 - (2) clear view of violations,
 - (3) access to violator, and
 - (4) low visibility of patrol vehicle.
- b. Observes traffic from all directions to detect violations.
- c. Recognizes that a violation has occurred by comparing observed vehicle operation with the requirements of the vehicle code and/or ordinances.

V.B.2.2. Visually Estimate the Speed of Vehicles.

- a. Estimates the speed of a vehicle by:
 - (1) observing the speed of the vehicle in relation to other vehicles and/or fixed objects,
 - (2) listening to the engine, and/or
 - (3) applying experience gained in clocking the speed of vehicles.
- b. Verifies the visual estimate of the speed of the vehicle, if possible, by:
 - (1) clocking the vehicle,
 - (2) using radar (addressed in advanced training), and/or
 - (3) determining the time, it takes to go from one point to another (e.g., using VASCAR).
- c. Determines whether enforcement action is necessary by comparing the visual estimate of speed-to-speed limit.

V.B.2.3. Determine the Speed of a Vehicle by Using the Pacing Technique (i.e., Using Speedometer).

- a. Identifies speed limit and where the violation of the speed law occurred.
- b. Operates patrol vehicle, maintaining an equal distance from the vehicle for a measured distance in order to clock the speed of the vehicle.
- c. Reads speedometer accurately.

V.B.2.4. Follow a Suspect Vehicle to Observe for a Traffic Violation.

- a. Observes driving behavior that calls for continued observation.
- b. Operates the patrol vehicle so detection by the operator of the vehicle being followed is avoided.
- c. Notes the location where followed vehicle is traveling by observing street signs, landmarks, direction of travel, etc.
- d. Recognizes that a violation has occurred by comparing the observed vehicle operation with the requirements of the vehicle code, and/or ordinances.

V.B.2.5. Make a Determination About the Appropriate Action to be Taken For a Traffic Offense.

- a. Identifies the traffic offense.
- b. Determines whether the violation is a civil infraction or misdemeanor.
- c. Determines whether to cite or arrest the driver by considering the seriousness of the violation (e.g., nature of violation, time of day, presence of other vehicles or pedestrian traffic).
- d. Requests operator re-examination by Department of State using Form OC-88 for any of the following reasons:
 - (1) physical infirmities;
 - (2) convulsive seizures or blackouts;
 - (3) mental infirmities or disabilities;
 - (4) vision deficiency; and/or
 - (5) inability to operate a motor vehicle safely.

Module History:

Revised 4/07
Reviewed 9/21