

Basic Training Module Specifications

Functional Area: V. Traffic  
Subject Area: B. Vehicle Stops  
Module Title: 3. AUTO THEFT  
Hours: Not less than 2 hours

Notes to Instructor:

Module Objectives:

V.B.3.1. Identify Possible Stolen Motor Vehicles.

- a. Observes for indicators of a stolen motor vehicle:
  - (1) wired on/loose plates;
  - (2) signs of forced entry;
  - (3) clean license plate/dirty vehicle;
  - (4) punched trunk lock or pulled ignition;
  - (5) vehicle is hotwired;
  - (6) vehicle matches wanted information.
- b. Conducts initial checks on the vehicle in question to verify cues:
  - (1) requests LEIN check;
  - (2) checks hot sheet;
  - (3) review briefing material.

V.B.3.2. Investigate to Verify if a Vehicle is Stolen.

- a. Establishes probable cause to stop the suspect vehicle.
- b. Stops the vehicle to determine the status of the vehicle.
- c. Establishes whether the vehicle is stolen:
  - (1) inspects for vehicle identification number (VIN):
    - (a) determines where to locate VIN by checking the Passenger Vehicle Identification Manual by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), if necessary;
    - (b) checks VIN to determine that it corresponds to the vehicle by comparing it to the registration certificate or the title or by verifying it by LEIN;
    - (c) inspects VIN plate to ensure that the plate is properly secured;

V.B.3.2. Investigate to Verify if a Vehicle is in Fact Stolen

- (d) determines if the VIN is a proper number (e.g., does the VIN contain the appropriate number of digits, is the style of lettering the same for all digits in the VIN, is the VIN the right type of number for the vehicle model, does the visible VIN match the hidden VIN).
- d. Determines whether vehicle is an unreported stolen vehicle based on continuing suspicion that operator is not in lawful possession of the vehicle.
  - (1) has radio operator attempt to phone registered owner to verify that operator has permission to operate vehicle;
  - (2) has a patrol unit sent to owner's address when phone contact cannot be made.

**Module History**

Revised 9/14  
Reviewed 9/21