

Basic Training Module Specifications

Functional Area: V. Traffic
Subject Area: E. Motor Vehicle Crash Investigation
Module Title: 2. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AT THE TRAFFIC CRASH SCENE
Hours: Not less than 1 hour

Notes to Instructor:

Module Objectives:

- V.E.2.1. Take Precautions to Prevent Additional Crashes at Traffic Crash Scene.
- a. Evaluates the scene to determine the best location to position the patrol vehicle.
 - b. Positions patrol vehicle to:
 - (1) provide protection for people and/or vehicles involved in situation; and
 - (2) facilitate the flow of uninvolved traffic.
 - c. Protects the scene by directing traffic away from it and/or setting out flares.
- V.E.2.2. Set Priorities for Action at a Traffic Crash Scene.
- a. Evaluates the scene of a traffic crash to determine the severity of the crash by considering such factors as:
 - (1) number of vehicles involved,
 - (2) extent of injuries,
 - (3) whether or not the situation is hazardous, and
 - (4) whether or not utilities have been damaged.
 - b. Determines the proper sequence of action based on the severity and type of crash (e.g., care for injured first and then re-establish flow of traffic).
 - c. Determines whether it is necessary to investigate based on:
 - (1) Motor Vehicle Code reporting requirements; and
 - (2) department policy.

V.E.2.3. Request Assistance at a Traffic Crash Scene.

- a. Determines whether there is a need for assistance at a motor vehicle crash scene by considering:
 - (1) extent of injuries;
 - (2) need for assistance to extricate injured from vehicle;
 - (3) amount of vehicle damage; and
 - (4) utility damage.
- b. Notifies the dispatcher to request assistance from the proper non-police agency or resource:
 - (1) emergency medical personnel;
 - (2) utilities;
 - (3) public service department;
 - (4) wrecking service.

V.E.2.4. Direct Activities at the Scene of a Traffic Crash Investigation.

- a. Identifies personnel resources available to assist at the crash scene.
- b. Determines priorities for action at the crash scene.
- c. Directs persons who are assisting (e.g., other police officers, civilians, fire personnel, tow truck personnel, utility personnel) to perform specific activities.
- d. Coordinates the performance of others assisting at the crash scene to determine if they are performing assigned responsibilities and if additional assistance is required.

V.E.2.5. Secure the Traffic Crash Scene to Protect Evidence.

- a. Secures the area in which traffic crash evidence is located (e.g., ropes off area, positions additional officers to guard evidence).
- b. Protects traffic crash physical evidence for collection.
 - (1) determines what priority should be given to protecting a particular item of traffic crash evidence (e.g., skid marks may withstand some traffic, but broken glass absolutely cannot be disturbed).
- c. Protects traffic crash evidence from contamination (e.g., places cover over items to protect them from weather, prevents unnecessary handling of evidence).

V.E.2.6. Determine Whether to Photograph the Traffic Crash Scene.

- a. Determines if the crash scene warrants photography based on factors such as:
 - (1) seriousness of property damage or personal injury, and
 - (2) department policy.

Module History

Revised 1/05
Reviewed 9/21