

Basic Training Module Specifications

Functional Area: V. Traffic

Subject Area: E. Motor Vehicle Crash Investigation

Module Title: 5. TRAFFIC CRASH EVIDENCE COLLECTION:  
FIELD SKETCHING AND MEASURING

Hours: Not less than 4 hours

Notes to Instructor:

Module Objectives:

V.E.5.1. Draw Field Sketch at Scene of a Traffic Crash.

- a. Sketches traffic crash scene, noting:
  - (1) resting position of vehicles and bodies;
  - (2) reference points and objects;
  - (3) evidence;
  - (4) traffic control devices;
  - (5) objects that obstruct view;
  - (6) points for measurements;
  - (7) table of measurements; and
  - (8) location of north and "not to scale" (NTS).
- b. Identifies field sketch for evidentiary purposes, noting:
  - (1) time and date of:
    - (a) crash, and
    - (b) sketch,
  - (2) jurisdiction;
  - (3) location, if not a junction;
  - (4) department reference number;
  - (5) weather considerations; and
  - (6) name of preparer and measurer.
- c. Retains field sketch as evidence.

V.E.5.2. Take Measurements at a Traffic Crash Scene for Field Sketch.

- a. Locates a permanent landmark as a point of reference for measurements.
- b. Takes measurements of traffic crash scene with assistance of other officer(s):
  - (1) Uses coordinate or triangulation method;
  - (2) Includes:
    - (a) length of skid marks;
    - (b) point of impact;
    - (c) resting place of vehicles; and
    - (d) road width.
- c. Records measurements concerning traffic crash on legend of sketch.

V.E.5.3. Diagram a Traffic Crash Scene.

- a. Records measurement information from the crash scene on field sketch.
- b. Draws finished diagram of the crash scene, using a legend to identify objects and items.
- c. Handles diagram as evidence.

Survey comments: I do not know of any jurisdiction that still uses measuring tapes, sketches, or other field notes for any serious or fatal crash investigations. Most serious or fatal crash investigations are going to be done by officers who have several years of experience and training in this area. I think the time spent on this instruction would be better served by giving the four hours to scenario instruction.

**Module History:**

Revised	04/07
Reviewed	9/21