Basic Training Module Specifications

Functional Area: V. Traffic

Subject Area: E. Motor Vehicle Crash Investigation

Module Title: 6. TRAFFIC CRASH EVIDENCE COLLECTION: ROADWAY SURFACE

Hours: Not less than 4 hours

Notes to Instructor:

Module Objectives:

V.E.6.l. Search the Traffic Crash Scene for Physical Evidence.

a. Determines what evidence may be present at a vehicle crash scene and its possible location (e.g., car with broken headlight would indicate that glass is at scene, direction of travel of vehicle might indicate location of evidence).

b. Obtains additional assistance to search scene, when necessary.

c. Searches for physical evidence at the crash scene by starting at the point of impact and working out in the appropriate direction.

V.E.6.2. Collect and Document Physical Evidence from a Traffic Crash Scene.

a. Identifies items at a traffic crash scene which have potential evidentiary value.

b. Collects evidence properly:
(1) photographs it;
(2) locates it on field sketch;
(3) uses proper container;
(4) keeps evidence from two vehicles separated.

c. Documents chain of custody of evidence by recording appropriate information about evidence which includes:
(1) description,
(2) dates,
(3) times,
(4) location, and
(5) name of recovering officer.

d. Takes evidence to proper location for safekeeping and preservation (e.g., property room).

V.E.6.3. Identify Point(s) of Impact at a Traffic Crash Scene.

a. Locates physical evidence at the traffic crash scene (e.g., gouge marks, liquids, glass, dirt from undercarriage).

b. Interviews drivers and witnesses at traffic crash scene.

c. Evaluates the information available to determine the point of impact (e.g., evaluates physical evidence and information from drivers' and/or witness' statements).

V.E.6.4. Measure Skid Marks.

a. Identifies the type of skid as:
(1) straight,
(2) curved,
(3) skip,
(4) gapped,
(5) overlapping.

b. Determines proper method to measure the skid based on type and extent of the skid:
(1) locates beginning and end for measurement;
(2) measures each skid mark independently;
(3) locates spots along a curved skid mark for measurement.

c. Requests appropriate assistance to help measure the skid marks, if necessary.

d. Measures the skid marks using the appropriate equipment (e.g., tape, wheel).

e. Records the length of the skid marks on a field sketch or notes by:
(1) locating and labeling the beginning and end of each skid mark independently (straight); or
(2) locating and labeling spots at intervals along a curved skid mark.

**Module History**

| | |
|---|---|
| Revised | 1/05 |
| Revised | 4/07 |
| Reviewed | 9/21 |
| Reviewed | 11/23 |