

Los Angeles Police Department
LD 29 Traffic Collision Investigations
EV4 Traffic Enforcement
S21 Traffic Collision

Date Revised: 10/2019

Course Goal: Peace officers need to know how to effectively manage traffic collision scenes to ensure their safety, the safety of others and protect the integrity of the collision scene to preserve evidence. The recruit officer will be provided with basic skills necessary to investigate a collision scene and how to properly document it in a report.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the components of standardized reporting formats used to document a collision. **[29.III.A]**
- Distinguish between the types of collision documentation, including: Collision investigation format, Collision report format. **[29.III.B] [29.III.B.1,2]**
- Prepare components of a traffic collision report, including: Description of injuries, identification of involved parties and vehicles, Time and location of collision events, Chronology of the collision events, Elements unique to hit-and-run and Driving-Under-the-Influence (DUI) collisions. **[29.III.C] [29.III.C.1-5]**
- Primary and associated collision factors, Area(s) of impact, Scene sketch. **[29.III.C.6,7,8]**
- Distinguish between information to be included in the narrative of a collision investigation format under each of the following categories facts, Statements, Opinions and conclusions, Recommendations, Distinguish between a collision sketch and a factual diagram. **[29.III.D] [29.III.D.1,2,3,4] [29.III.E]**
- Prepare content features and elements to be included on a collision scene sketch, Factual diagram. **[29.III.F] [29.III.F.1,2]**
- Given a simulated traffic collision problem, the student will participate in a learning activity that will reinforce the student's understanding of traffic collision investigative techniques, including, determining compass direction, methods to determine the area(s) of impact, Identification of physical evidence, scene measurement techniques. The student will participate in a learning activity involving a traffic collision scene. The student will demonstrate an understanding of an officer's responsibilities at a traffic collision scene, the ability to manage a traffic collision scene, the ability to perform traffic collision investigative tasks, the ability to complete a traffic collision report, the ability to complete a legible traffic collision sketch that records the officer's opinion as to how the collision occurred. **[29.V.A, A1, A2, A3, A4]**
- Student will participate in a learning activity that will reinforce the student's understanding of techniques to control traffic using hand signals, flashlights and warning devices including. **[28.VII:B:1, 2]**

Time: 2 Hours

Resources:

- Laptop with media software developed for this session.
- LD 29

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">c. Agencies are also responsible for documenting all bicycle collisions occurring on highways within their jurisdiction.4. Report components.<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Face sheet information regarding the:<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Date and time2) Location of the collision,3) Involved parties,4) Vehicle damage, and5) Any special conditions (e.g., on-duty emergency vehicle, school bus, etc.).b. Data sheet documentation of the:<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Primary collision factor,2) Vehicle movements,3) Scene conditions, and4) Other information to be entered into the SWITRS database.c. Injured/witness/ passenger records<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Injured persons,2) Witnesses (i.e., non-injured, noninvolved persons), and/or3) Passengers (i.e., non-injured, involved persons)4) Notation of the extent of injuries.d. Narrative.<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Investigating officer's record, written in that officer's own words, of the facts related to the collision.	<p>[29.III.B.1] Lecture: Collision Investigation Format</p> <p>[29.III.C.3] Lecture: Time and Location of Collision</p> <p>[29.III.C.2] Lecture: Identification of Parties</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">2) Statements made by involved and noninvolved persons.3) The officer's opinions, conclusions, and recommendations.4) An illustration representing the investigating officer's opinion how the collision occurred5) A drawing of the factual details of the collision scene as the officer found it. <p>e. Reporting formats when investigation a T/C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Collision Investigation Format: takes place on a highway and results in serious personal injury. Completed by I/O.2) Collision report format: Minor injuries, property damage only. Completed by I/O.3) Property damage only: No injuries, no follow-ups and no prosecution anticipated. <p>B. Report Narratives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. A report narrative should not contain useless details. Instead a narrative should:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Bring together the elements of the incident in a concise, logical, and time sequenced order.b. Expand upon information noted elsewhere.c. Explain the occurrence of the collision.	<p>[29.III.D.4] Lecture: Recommendations</p> <p>[29.III.B.2] Lecture: Collisions Reporting Formats</p> <p>[29.III.C.4] Lecture: Lecture Chronology of Collision</p>
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<p>10. The opinions and conclusions portion of an investigation narrative should explain how the collision occurred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Summary present a complete description of:b. What took place.c. How the collision happened and why it happened.d. Tell what happened before, during, and after the collision.e. Base all opinions on evidence at the scene and/or statements of involved parties or witnesses.f. Present information in a logical, time sequential manner.g. Note pertinent details. <p>11. Area(s) of Impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. State the area of impact and how it was determined (e.g., physical evidence, point of rest, statements, damage etc.).b. Indicate the area of impact with a minimum of two measurements.c. If more than one area of impact, note each separately. <p>12. Cause/Fault.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Identify the party who was determined to be most at fault and the primary collision factor.b. Explain how each was determined and identify the evidence upon which each was based. <p>13. In the final portion of an investigation narrative, the investigating officer may</p>	
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<p>recommend follow-up actions. I/O may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Requesting district attorney's review. b. Mechanical inspections. c. Further evidence analysis. d. DMV re-examinations of driver. <p>C. Collision Sketches and Factual Diagrams.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sketches vs. diagrams. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A collision sketch is an illustration of the collision scene that reflects the investigating officer's opinions as to how the vehicle collision occurred. Collision sketches should be included with all collision investigation format and collision report formats. [29.III.E] b. A factual diagram is a drawing of the collision scene that represents the scene as it was found upon the officer's arrival. It contains factual information only, rather than any opinions of the investigating officer. 2. Factual diagrams should be included with collision documentation when the <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Collision involves a serious injury or fatality. b. Diagram would assist in a prosecution. c. Diagram would assist an officer in clarifying a point in the narrative portion of the report. 3. All sketches and diagrams must be clean (smudge free), clear, and 	<p>[29.III.C.8] Lecture: Scene Sketch</p> <p>[29.III.E] [29.III.F.2] Lecture: Factual Diagram</p> <p>Collision Related Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions of rest of involved vehicles • Location of dead or injured parties • Area(s) of impact
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legible. All text should be written horizontally (parallel to the bottom of the page) rather than vertically. The use of diagram templates and a straight edge is recommended to improve the quality of all sketches and diagrams.

4. All collision sketches and factual diagrams should include:
 - a. A compass direction (North is usually indicated with an arrow pointing to the top of the page).
 - b. Reference points and directions.
 - c. Fixed objects and elements (appropriately labeled) that are relevant to the investigation or are relevant to collision factors (e.g., trees, traffic signs and devices, shrubs, poles, buildings, etc.).
 - d. The identity of all highways, roadways, and alleys shown.
5. Both collision sketches and factual diagrams should also be proportional (but not necessarily to scale).
6. Collision sketches illustrate the investigating officer's opinion regarding:
 - a. travel pathways of involved vehicles and parties.
 - b. Area of impact.
7. Factual diagrams should illustrate only the facts of the collision regarding location of:
 - a. Physical evidence.

[29.III.F.1]

Lecture: Collision Scene Sketch

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Points of rest of involved vehicle(s).c. Dead or injured parties.d. Other critical features observed by the investigating officer. <p>8. Collision sketch guidelines. A collision sketch should illustrate the investigating officer's opinions that have been expressed in the narrative summary of the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Official route numbers or names should be used to identify all highways.b. When there is more than one area of impact, each should be numbered consecutively beginning with the initial impact.c. Vehicle pathways prior to the area of impact should be identified using solid lines. Each line should be numbered as necessary to identify vehicles (e.g., V-1, V-2, etc.).d. Identify the pathways of pedestrians or animals using dashed lines. Each line should be numbered as necessary (e.g., P-1, P-2, etc.). <p>9. A factual diagram should enhance the facts presented in a collision investigation format narrative.</p> <p>10. Do not show vehicle or pedestrian pathways or area(s) of impact. These should be described in the investigation narrative format and shown on the collision sketch.</p>	<p>The point of rest (POR) is the geographical location at which the involved vehicles come to a final position of rest after impact</p> <p>[29.V.A, A1, A2, A3, A4] [28:VII.B:1, 2] Facilitate: Learning activity #1</p>
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