

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT  
TRAFFIC COLLISION INVESTIGATION  
1850-33590  
Expanded Course Outline**

**Instructional Goal:** To provide sworn personnel with effective tools to use and to be more efficient and effective when investigating a traffic crash.

**Performance Objectives:** Using learning activities, facilitated discussion and practical application scenarios, the student will:

- Gain an understanding of crash scene management.
- Learn how to write crash summary.
- Review most common Vehicle code violations involved in crashes.
- Learn new diagramming techniques.
- Gain an understanding on how to interpret tire marks and other physical evidence.
- Learn about railroad and staged collisions.
- Review Driving Under the Influence factors in a crash.
- Review policies and procedures as it relates to crash investigations.

**References:** Instructors, facilitators and training supervisors shall ensure that current references are utilized

**Day-1**

**I. INTRODUCTION AND COURSE OVERVIEW (1 Hr.)**

A. Topic 1.0 - Introduction and Orientation

1. Instructors introduce themselves
2. Review POST attendance criteria
3. Orient students to facility

B. Course goals and objectives

1. Build upon and the skills of traffic collision investigation learned in the POST Basic Academy
  - a. Provide the student with a more in-depth look at the traffic crash investigation process as a whole
  - b. Provide the skills necessary for completion of a scale diagrams at basic intersections
  - c. Introduce the student to the complexities of vehicle dynamics, occupant behavior, injury causation, pedestrian, motorcycle and bicycle collisions

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C. Required materials

1. Review what is needed to bring to class
  - a. Calculator with square root function
  - b. Blue Blitz ruler (provided)
  - c. Compass
  - d. Clipboard, pencil and eraser

D. Student responsibilities

1. Dress attire
2. Court
3. Sign in sheet

**II. COLLISION SCENE MANAGEMENT (1 Hr.)**

A. Topic 4.0 – Introduction and Overview

1. Determine the type of collision to be investigated
2. Identify the need for additional assistance to facilitate traffic control and scene management

B. Responding to the scene - Planning

1. Check status of hit and run vehicles for stolen or Code 6 Charles status while enroute
2. Upon arrival, quickly survey the scene to determine
  - a. Traffic control
  - b. Crowd control
3. Check severity of injuries to determine:
  - a. Need for medical attention
  - b. Type of injury determines type of report to be completed
4. Identify witnesses
5. Identify parties

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6. Restore traffic flow, if possible
  7. Control traffic lanes with cones, flares, barricades, etc
    - a. Be careful of flare use – scan environment for possible
      1. flammable hazards
    - b. Utilize outside resources if necessary (DOT, Patrol units)
  8. Nine Cell Matrix
- C. Human Factors – consider working the human factors first to ensure that important witnesses do not leave the scene prior to being interviewed
1. Pre – crash
    - a. Blood alcohol level
    - b. Physical condition
    - c. Attention span
  2. Crash
    - a. Seating position
    - b. Injury mechanism
  3. Post – crash
    - a. Direction of ejected party or passenger
    - b. Give chemical test
- D. Vehicle factors
1. Pre – crash
    - a. Mechanical condition of vehicle
    - b. Approach angle
  2. Crash
    - a. Number of occupants
    - b. Estimate of speed
    - c. Vehicle load (weight)
    - d. Area(s) of impact

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3. Post – crash
  - a. Final position
  - b. Location of debris
  - c. Departure angle
  - d. Need for tow

**E. Environmental factors**

1. Pre – crash
  - a. Lighting
  - b. Roadway conditions
  - c. Visibility
2. Crash
  - a. Traffic conditions at time of collision
  - b. Coefficient of friction of the roadway
  - c. Traffic controls
3. Post – crash
  - a. Changes in environment during investigation
  - b. Evidence documentation
  - c. Photograph as it was upon arrival
  - d. Mark and re-photograph
  - e. Measure
  - f. Obtain diagram measurements

**D. Establishing the “Area of Impact” (AOI)**

1. Areas of impact can be “estimated” from circumstantial evidence or statements, but are “substantiated” by physical evidence
2. Best indicators (in order):
  - a. Physical evidence
  - b. Independent witness statements
  - c. Party or passenger statements
3. Indicate whether measured (if so, with what), paced, or estimated

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- E. Coordinate and reference point methods of scene measurement
  - 1. Two measurements must be taken to locate any point on the earth (the “Coordinate method”)
  - 2. These measurements must be taken from two permanent landmarks
  - 3. A distance and direction must be documented
  - 4. When using the coordinate method, use the same quadrant for consistency

**III. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**(2 Hrs.)**

**NOTE:** The policies and procedures section of this course is very extensive. As a result, it has been broken down into two parts. The first part is taught on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the course, and the latter part is taught on the last day.

A. Topic 2.0 Opening

1. Definitions

- a. Conveyance
- b. Vehicle
- c. Motor vehicle
- d. Party
- e. Driver
- f. Pedestrian
- g. Passenger
- h. Witness
- i. Highway
- j. Street
- k. Roadway
- l. Alley
- m. Intersection
- n. Crosswalk
- o. Sidewalk
- p. Limit Line
- q. Blind intersection
- r. Residential district
- s. Business district
- t. Traffic collision or crash

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- u. Multiple impacts
- B. Specific intent occurrence
  - 1. Persons
    - a. Suicide
    - b. Attempt ADW with Vehicle
    - c. ADW with Vehicle
  - 2. Property damage
    - a. Vandalism
- C. Industrial accidents
  - 1. Review examples of industrial accidents
- D. Legal intervention
  - 1. Review examples of legal intervention
  - 2. Discuss what is considered a collision during a legal intervention
- E. Non-contact traffic crashes
  - 1. When actual physical contact has not occurred
  - 2. Criteria
    - a. Violation is corroborated by independent witness; OR
    - b. By physical evidence; OR
    - c. By the statement of the “non-contact” party, including a full license plate number
- F. Hit and run crashes
  - 1. Non-Injury crash
  - 2. Injury crash
- G. Animals, bicycles, and trains involved in traffic collisions
- H. Reporting the death of armed forces personnel
- I. Juveniles involved in traffic collisions
  - 1. Subject to filing
    - a. Review what is required

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- J. Towed or pushed vehicles involved in traffic collisions
- K. Towed vehicles
- L. Pushed vehicles
- M. Trailers and semi-trailers

**IV. COLLISION SUMMARY (1 Hr. 30 Min)**

- A. Topic 2.0.1 Opening
  - 1. Collision or crash summary is a word picture of the incident
  - 2. Do not indicate fault or the primary cause in the summary
- B. What to do when an investigation is not conducted at scene:
  - 1. Collision/crash summary SHALL be prefaced by a statement as to where the report was taken
  - 2. Include the following in the summary:
    - a. Vehicle/party number
    - b. Direction of travel
    - c. Names of the involved streets
    - d. Each area of impact (AOI)
    - e. Lane numbers of lanes used by involved vehicles
    - f. Action of each party between AOI's

**NOTE:** Officers shall use the word "Collided" rather than struck when writing the summary

**Example:** V-1, N/B Main St. number 1 lane collided with the right side of V-2, E/B Florence Ave. number 3 lane. V-1 continued in a N/W direction, ran off the road and collided with bus bench

- C. Class exercise:
  - 1. Have each student write a collision/crash summary based on video of crash
  - 2. As a group, review all summary's

**V. PENAL CODE (2Hr 30 Min)**

- A. Topic 3.0.1 Opening Introduction

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1. Crash Related Traffic Laws and Penal Code

- a. 192(c)(2) PC
- b. 192(c)(1) PC
- c. 191.5 (a) PC
- d. 191.5 (b) PC
- e. 187 PC
- f. Case Law
- g. Scene procedures
- h. 20001 & 20002 VC
- i. Traffic Crash report formatting

B. 192(C)(2) PC

1. Misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter

- a. Driving a vehicle in the commission of an unlawful act, not amounting to a felony, but without gross negligence; or driving a vehicle in the commission of a lawful act which might produce death, in an unlawful manner, but without gross negligence
  - 1) No DUI
  - 2) Without gross negligence

C. 192(C)(1) PC

1. Felony vehicular manslaughter

- a. Except as provided in subdivision (a) of Section 191.5, driving a vehicle in the commission of an unlawful act, not amounting to a felony, and with gross negligence; or driving a vehicle in the commission of a lawful act which might produce death, in an unlawful manner, and with gross negligence
  - 1) No DUI
  - 2) With gross negligence

D. 191.5 (a) PC

1. Felony DUI vehicular manslaughter

- a. Gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated is the unlawful killing of a human being without malice aforethought, in the driving of a vehicle,



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where the driving was in violation of Section 23140, 23152, or 23153 of the Vehicle Code, and the killing was either the proximate result of the commission of an unlawful act, not amounting to a felony, and with gross negligence, or the proximate result of the commission of a lawful act that might produce death, in an unlawful manner, and with gross negligence

- 1) DUI
- 2) With gross negligence

E. 191.5 (b) PC

1. Misdemeanor DUI vehicular manslaughter

- a. Vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated is the unlawful killing of a human being without malice aforethought, in the driving of a vehicle, where the driving was in violation of Section 23140, 23152, or 23153 of the Vehicle Code, and the killing was either the proximate result of the commission of an unlawful act, not amounting to a felony, but without gross negligence, or the proximate result of the commission of a lawful act that might produce death, in an unlawful manner, but without gross negligence

- 1) DUI
- 2) Without gross negligence

F. 187 (a) PC

1. Felony murder

- a. Murder is the unlawful killing of a human being, or a fetus, with malice aforethought

- 1) Per 188 (a) (2) PC, Malice is implied when no considerable provocation appears, or when the circumstances attending the killing show an abandoned and malignant heart

b. Degrees of murder (189 PC)

- 1) Express malice, non-vehicular (weapon) – 1<sup>st</sup> degree
- 2) Implied malice, vehicular – 2<sup>nd</sup> degree

c. Punishment for murder (190 PC)

- 1) 1<sup>st</sup> degree – death penalty, life w/o parole, or 25 to life

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2) 2<sup>nd</sup> degree – 15 to life

G. Case Law

1. Past cases setting precedent for current laws and punishment

- a. People vs Watson
  - 1) 1981 CA Supreme Court
  - 2) Established “Watson Murder” – 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder
- b. People vs Eagles
  - 1) 1982 CA Appellate case interpreting and applying Watson
  - 2) Upheld Watson murder
- c. People vs Olivas
  - 1) 1985 CA Appellate case reaffirming Watson
  - 2) Established and upheld interpretation of Watson as 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder
- d. People vs Albright
  - 1) 1985 CA Appellate case again confirming Watson precedent
  - 2) Jury found Albright guilty of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder, under Watson
  - 3) Trial court modified verdict to vehicular manslaughter
  - 4) Appellate court reinstated jury verdict upholding Watson sufficient for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- e. People vs McCarnes
  - 1) 1986 CA Appellate case of Watson murder
  - 2) First case which allowed introduction of prior DUI’s as evidence of implied malice

2. Conclusion

- 1) Critical factors to consider which may support Implied malice, in support of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder arising from vehicular manslaughter
  - a) Operation of a vehicle while DUI (Watson, Olivas, Albright and McCarnes)
  - b) Presumption suspect aware of hazards of DUI (Watson)
  - c) Excessive speed and or reckless driving (Watson, Eagles, Olivas, Albright and McCarnes)
  - d) Attempt to elude or evade law enforcement (Olivas)
  - e) Driving to a location w/ intent to consume intoxicants, knowing they’ll have to drive again to leave (Watson)

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- f) Actual or near crash prior to final, fatal crash, giving knowledge to suspect of the life endangering nature of their driving (Watson and Olivas)
- g) Resumption of prior dangerous driving after actual or near crash (Watson and Olivas)
- h) Unsuccessful attempts to avoid fatal crash (braking or swerving) (Watson)
- i) Prior uncharged reckless driving (Eagles)
- j) Prior DUI convictions (McCarnes)
- k) Prior reckless driving convictions (McCarnes)
- l) Prior sentencing requirements of driver education program (McCarnes)
- m) Other factors to consider
  - 1. Existence of evidence that 3<sup>rd</sup> parties made the defendant aware of the dangers of their conduct (passengers' complaints of reckless or intoxicated driving or attempts to stop their dangerous driving)
  - 2. Evidence of defendant's recent participation to any driver education program
  - 3. Evidence that the defendant was a prior victim of a reckless or intoxicated driver.

**H. Scene Procedures at Sever Injury and Fatal Crashes**

- 1. Officer must remember this is not just an ordinary crash
  - a. Don't be in a hurry to clear the scene
  - b. Officer(s) shall;
    - 1) In the event of a fatality, immediately request a traffic supervisor, or if none available, a patrol supervisor.
    - 2) Ensure the crime scene is protected
      - a) Closure of streets, crime scene tape, additional police or DOT personnel
    - 3) Ensure the initiation and completion of a crime scene log
    - 4) Crime scene control and processing
      - a) Update scene protection as needed
      - b) Determine the location and condition of the suspect and whether in custody.
        - 1. If hit and run, initiate crime broadcast
      - c) Determine the location and condition of other involved parties and potential witnesses

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- d) Identify and interview first responding law enforcement and fire personnel
- e) Obtain statements from witnesses and suspect(s).
- f) Ensure all evidence is safeguarded and documented / collected properly
- 5) Notifications to be made
  - a) In case of fatality – coroner
  - b) Update the watch commander as needed
  - c) On scene supervisor should consider notifying detectives, MCIT, TID or any other resources as needed
- 6) Suspect information
  - a) If DUI, obtain toxicology evidence (blood sample) immediately and DRE evaluation as needed
  - b) Check suspect's clothing for evidence (glass or other evidence from vehicle)
  - c) If no witnesses to establish driving, document any evidence that may (injuries to suspect consistent with PDOF, T/C damage or interior of vehicle)
- 7) Crime scene and evidence processing
  - a) Consider the evidential value of clothing
  - b) Prior to handling any evidence, ensure it is photographed and or documented
  - c) Chalk or paint any essential evidence in or on roadway
  - d) Record the names of persons discovering evidence
  - e) Measure location of all essential evidence for documentation within report
- 8) Coroner
  - a) Allow NO ONE to search the body except the coroner's deputies
  - b) Attempt identification of victim and injuries
  - c) Obtain receipt for coroner when personal effects are removed from, or taken with, the victim's body
  - d) Ensure that identification photos are taken of the victim at scene, if possible, or upon follow up to hospital
- 9) If the victim is not at scene upon officers' arrival, attempt to locate anyone that may be able to identify the victim
- 10) Before clearing scene
  - a) Confirm witness information and verify vantage point(s)
  - b) Walk through understanding of collision sequence – does it make sense
  - c) Ensure reports are completed and contain all information needed for prosecution

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2. Reporting traffic deaths

- a. Officer(s) originally assigned the call and investigation of the crash shall be responsible for completing a death report
  - 1) If the death is a result of the investigated crash
    - a) When the decedent is pronounced dead and left at scene
    - b) Or is pronounced dead by the hospital during the officers' tour of duty
  - 2) Officers shall provide a detailed summary of the events surrounding the death in the death report
    - a) Including how the decedent was involved in the collision
      - 1. Driver, passenger, pedestrian, etc.
    - b) A summary of the collision (vehicle vs vehicle, vehicle vs pedestrian, etc.)
    - c) The coroner needs as much information as possible in the death report because they do not receive a copy of the traffic crash report
- b. When the officer(s) originally assigned the investigation of the traffic crash has reported end of watch, the concerned bureau traffic detectives shall complete the death report.

I. Hit and Run

1. Hit and run misdemeanor – 20002 (a) VC

a. Elements

- 1) The driver of any vehicle involved in a traffic crash only resulting in property damage shall
  - a) Immediately stop the vehicle at the nearest location that will not impede traffic or otherwise jeopardize the safety of other motorists
  - b) Locate and notify the owner or person in charge of the involved, damaged property of the name and address of the driver and owner of the involved vehicle, or
  - c) Leave in a conspicuous place a written notice giving the name and address of the driver and owner of the involved vehicle
  - d) Failure to do either of these is a violation of 20002(a) VC, and charged as a hit and run misdemeanor

b. Booking advice

- 1) Booking advice may be obtained from a supervisor of either
- 2) The geographic area of occurrence, or
- 3) The concerned traffic division

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2. Hit and run felony – 20001 (a) VC
  - a. Elements
    - 1) The driver of a vehicle involved in a traffic crash resulting in injury to a person, other than himself or herself, or in the death of a person shall
      - a) immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the crash
      - b) and shall fulfill the requirements of Sections 20003 and 20004
        1. Give
          - a. his or her name, current residence address,
          - b. the name(s) and current residence addresses of any occupant(s) of the driver's vehicle injured in the crash
          - c. the registration number of the vehicle he or she is driving
          - d. and the name and current residence address of the vehicle owner
          - e. provide this information to the person struck, or the driver or occupants of any vehicle collided with
          - f. and parties shall give the information to any traffic or police officer at the scene
      - c) The driver also shall
        1. render, to any person injured in the crash, reasonable assistance, including transporting, or making arrangements for transporting, any injured person to a physician, surgeon, or hospital for medical or surgical treatment if it is apparent that treatment is necessary or if that transportation is requested by any injured person
  - b. Booking advice
    - 1) Only a traffic supervisor shall give booking advice
3. Hit and run field procedures
  - a. Determine if hit and run occurred
    - 1) Crime broadcast, if applicable
  - b. Interview witnesses and search for additional witnesses
  - c. Establish the initial facts of the case (prima facie)
    - 1) Identify physical evidence
      - a) Document and measure non-recoverable evidence
      - b) Document and book recoverable evidence
  - d. Search vehicle for evidence and or identification of hit and run driver
  - e. Search surrounding area for hit and run driver
  - f. Establish involvement of injured or deceased victim(s) for court

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- 1) Can be based on
    - a) Physical evidence, or Statements of paramedics or witnesses
  - g. Vehicle impounds
    - 1) If hit and run vehicle is parked on highway or private property open to public
      - a) Impound per 22655(a) VC
      - b) No need to impound if
        - 1. Suspect is interviewed, admits to involvement in crash and photos of suspect and vehicle are taken
    - 2) Hold the vehicle for traffic detectives
  - h. Follow up to locate hit and run vehicle
    - 1) Okay to search near registered owner's address if within officer's bureau If outside bureau, supervisory approval is need
  - i. Arrest and booking of hit and run suspects
    - 1) Hit and run Felony
      - a) Establish the initial facts of the case (prima facie)
      - b) Obtain booking advice from a traffic supervisor
      - c) Obtain booking approval from the area watch commander
    - 2) Hit and run Misdemeanor
      - a) To arrest for hit and run misdemeanor, officer must have either
        - 1. Observed the crime, or
        - 2. Have a signed private person's arrest
- J. HIT AND RUN TRAFFIC CRASH REPORT FORMATTING
- 1. The hit and run party is ALWAYS listed first, as Party-1
    - a. Regardless of fault
  - 2. Leave hit and run party and vehicle boxes blank
    - a. Unless positively identified
  - 3. Scale diagram versus sketch
    - a. Fatal or suspected serious injury crashes (hit and run or DUI)
      - 1) Full Class-I report
        - a) Scale diagram and verbatim statements
    - b. Suspected minor or possible injury crashes (hit and run or DUI)
      - 1) One of the exceptions to response and reporting criteria
        - a) Class-II report
          - 1. Sketch and paraphrased statements

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4. Municipal supplement
    - a. ALWAYS the last numbered page of the Traffic Crash report
      - 1) Include the description of
        - a) The hit and run vehicle
        - b) The hit and run driver
        - c) Damage to the both the hit and run, and other involved, vehicle
  5. CHP 556 supplemental
    - a. Can be used in the following circumstances (relating to hit and runs)
      - 1) Statement from hit and run driver
      - 2) Attaching written evidence (e.g. suspect vehicle's license plate number)
- K. Information needed by Traffic detectives for successful follow up and prosecution
1. Detailed description of hit and run driver and vehicle
  2. Whether victim asked hit and run driver for identification
  3. Did victim find any note(s) left on parked vehicle
  4. Did hit and run driver stop at scene and speak with anyone
  5. Evidence of hit and run driver's knowledge shows intent
    - a. Unusual actions after the crash
    - b. Unusual movements after the crash
    - c. Intensity of impact
    - d. Obviousness of injuries of victim(s)
  6. Inspection of involved vehicles
    - a. Description of damage and its location (for matching to corresponding damage on hit and run vehicle)
    - b. Officer may take, or have TID take, photos of damage, or suggest to victim to take their own photos for later prosecution
  7. Book anything of evidentiary value found at scene



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8. Include the results of driver's license or other records search and any follow-ups
9. Who can testify to the suspect's driving
  - a. Is the hit and run vehicle registered to the suspect?
  - b. Physical evidence
    - 1) Suspect's clothing or personal items left in the vehicle
      - a) Ensure that it is photographed and booked
10. Placing the suspect in the hit and run vehicle
  - a. Document the ambulance and paramedic(s) name(s) and serial number(s)
  - b. Document any witnesses
  - c. Document any evidence of the suspect being in the vehicle (injuries consistent with crash, clothing or personal items left in vehicle, etc.)
11. If blood is drawn from the suspect
  - a. Document who drew the blood (full name and employee number if applicable)
  - b. Which officer(s) witnessed the blood draw (keeps nurses out of court)
  - c. Copy of medical treatment slip documenting blood draw
  - d. Note the time of blood draw and if IV fluids were administered
  - e. Follow current Department policies and legal requirements for forced blood
12. If the victim is dead
  - a. Who can identify the victim at the scene of the crash
  - b. Who can identify the victim by name?
    - 1) Friend or family
  - c. Ensure photographs of the victim are taken, for court
  - d. Document paramedic(s) name(s) and serial number(s)
  - e. Obtain EMS run sheet
  - f. Document emergency room or doctor treating (full name and employee number if applicable)
  - g. Document hospital medical record or patient number
  - h. Document who pronounced the victim's death and when
  - i. Document the coroner's information and case number
13. If the victim is in serious condition

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- a. Who can identify the victim at the scene of the crash
  - b. Who can identify the victim by name?
    - 1) Friend or family
  - c. Ensure photographs of the victim are taken, for court
  - d. Document paramedic(s) name(s) and serial number(s)
  - e. Obtain EMS run sheet
  - f. Document emergency room or doctor treating (full name and employee number if applicable)
  - g. Document hospital medical record or patient number
14. To obtain successful filing for hit and run felony or DUI
- a. Officers must establish the victim's injuries
    - 1) By clear description and documentation
    - 2) And patient or medical record number from the hospital
    - 3) Victim must receive timely medical treatment
15. Booking charges can always be upgraded
- a. If circumstances or injuries change, criminal elements may change from misdemeanor to felony
    - 1) If the investigating officer is still on duty, they shall update the booking charge and report(s) accordingly
- L. Hit and Run Felony
1. Crime broadcast and **teletype**
    - a. Format and information
      - 1) Brief description (vehicle versus ped, vehicle versus vehicle, etc.)
      - 2) Occurrence
        - a) Date, time and location
      - 3) Suspect vehicle
        - a) Including (likely or known) damage
      - 4) Suspect (if seen)
      - 5) Registered owner (for **teletype**)
      - 6) Refer to – (DR number and lead investigative unit)
    - b. Obtain traffic supervisory approval prior to sending **teletype**
    - c. Attach a copy of the **teletype** to the Traffic Crash report

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**Day 2**

**VI. RADIUS AND INTERCEPT ANGLES DIAGRAMMING**

**(6 Hrs. 30 Min)**

A. Topic 6.0 Opening

1. Basic Field Sketch

- a. Draw a T-Intersection
- b. Students to sketch the intersection
- c. Show how to measure the intersection

B. Intercept angles at an intersection

1. Definitions

- a. Intercept
- b. Break point

2. Scene measurements needed

3. Reproducing the intercept angle on a scale diagram

C. Radius

1. Definitions

- a. Diameter
- b. Radius
- c. Chord
- d. Mid-ordinate

2. Scene measurements needed

3. Radius equation

4. Drawing the radius to scale

D. Grade

1. Definition

2. Measuring the grade at scene

3. Indicating grade on a scale diagram

E. Basic field sketch

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1. Requirements

- a. Street names
- b. Street widths
- c. Area(s) of impact
- d. Points of rest of vehicles, pedestrians, and objects
- e. Traffic controls and their locations
- f. Roadway markings and crosswalks
- g. Lighting (if collision occurred during darkness)
- h. Offsets of curbs or lanes
- i. Date and time of collision
- j. Officer's name and serial number
- k. North arrow

2. Equipment

3. Conclusion

F. Learning activity (classroom)

- 1. The student will receive a completed field sketch. The instructor will lead the student through the completion of a scale diagram from the rough sketch

**VII. FIELD PRACTICAL**

**(1 Hr. 30 Min)**

- A. Students will do initial sketch and measurements for first full scale diagram
- B. Students will submit diagram to instructors
  - 1. Instructors will critique and review with students

**Day 3**

**VIII. TIREMARKS**

**(2 Hr.)**

A. Topic 5.0 Opening

1. Types of tire marks

a. Skid marks

1. Impending

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2. Locked wheel
2. Scrub / Scuff marks
3. Prints / Imprints
4. Yaw marks
5. Acceleration marks
6. ABS marks

**B. Use of Tire Marks**

1. May indicate the movement of the tire on the road before, during, and after impact
2. May aid in fixing a vehicle's location at the time of impact
3. May indicate the approach and departure angles of vehicles for purposes of reconstruction
4. May be used to calculate a minimum speed
5. May indicate possible mechanical defects

**C. Causes of Tire Marks**

1. Tire marks are caused by heat due to friction
2. When a tire is no longer free to roll, i.e., locked from braking or sliding sideways, heat builds up between the road surface and the tire. On asphalt roads, this heat buildup causes tar to come to the roadway surface, making the visible tire mark
3. This is why tire marks are harder to see on old, well-traveled roads or surfaces such as Portland cement. The marks you see on these surfaces are merely the rubber compound from the tire and tend to be much lighter

**D. Tire Marks**

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1. Tire marks are made in many different ways, each leaves a distinct mark
  - a. Skid mark – tire sliding, wheel not rotating. This includes impending tire marks where the wheel is rotating slower than the vehicle is traveling across the surface of the road. Both tapered at beginning with abrupt ends
    1. Over deflection of front tires in braking
    2. Light marking from rear tire due to under deflection
  - b. Four-wheel independent – each wheel leaving an individual mark
  - c. ABS – will leave marks similar to impending skids. These are treated as locked skids. The mark dissipates very quickly
2. Scrub / scuff or side slip mark
  - a. Produced by a tire slipping across the road surface at an angle to the vehicle's original path of travel
  - b. Post-impact scrub produced by the sideways movement of the tire at the time of impact
3. Tire print / imprinting
  - a. Tires are rolling
  - b. Possible variations
    1. Prints on pavement
    2. Impressions / ruts in soft material
  - c. Indicates path taken and which wheels were locked
4. Tire furrows
  - a. Tires not rolling
    1. Produced by locked or pinned tire in soft stuff
    2. Creates a rut
    3. Throws material in the direction of travel
    4. Creates a buildup in the direction of travel
  - b. Tires rolling
    1. Produced by a tire rolling in soft stuff
    2. Creates a tire print
    3. Pushes material outward from the tire and slightly in the direction of travel

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4. No buildup in the direction of travel
5. Yaw marks
  - a. Produced by steering the vehicle into a curve at a speed where the tires begin to slide to the side, creating an arched tire mark
  - b. Rear tires track to the outside of the front tires
  - c. Striations perpendicular, or nearly so, to the direction of travel
  - d. Striations may (open to controversy) indicate whether the vehicle was accelerating or decelerating

**E. Irregularities in Tire Marks**

1. Skip skids – bouncing wheels, measure same as locked
2. Gap skids – skid marks stop and start again, caused by releasing and then re-applying the brakes. (More than 5' distance between marks)
3. Varying surfaces
  - a. Tar smear
  - b. Tire rub-off
  - c. Erasing or cleaning
  - d. Pavement scratching
  - e. Squeegee on wet pavement
4. Uneven roadway
5. Flat tires

**F. Acceleration Marks**

1. Start abruptly
2. End with taper
3. May dig out roadway material at beginning

**G. Summary**

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1. It isn't important at the scene of a collision to determine exactly how all of the marks were made
2. It is important to locate the marks and describe them well enough so that such a determination may be made later.
3. The marks can be best recorded with good measurements and photography
4. When you can't determine which vehicle laid down which tire mark, a systematic alpha labeling of each mark should be done, i.e., (A1 – Z99)

H. Speed / Skid Chart

1. The Speed / Skid Chart is used for speed determination of a vehicle from skid marks. The speed of the vehicle obtained from the chart will be the **MINIMUM** speed. There are several factors which can affect speed. Fill in all the known information
  - a. Locked skid - information needed
    1. The average length of the skid marks; (measure each tire mark, add them together and divide by the total wheel braking groups) **OR**
    2. The length of the longest skid mark (as long as all of the tires marked and are in a somewhat straight line
    3. The coefficient of friction of the roadway surface (flat dry surface - .70 for asphalt or .80 for concrete. An adjustment is needed for grade
  2. Locked skid - calculation of speed
    - a. Mark the skid distance on the left side of the graph
    - b. Draw a horizontal line to the correct Coefficient of Friction
    - c. Draw a vertical line to the bottom of the graph. This will indicate the vehicle's **MINIMUM** speed
  3. Yaw mark – information needed
    - a. A 50' chord (C)
    - b. Measurement of the mid-ordinate (in inches or feet)



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4. Yaw mark – calculation of speed
  - a. Mark the measured mid-ordinate (in inches or feet) on the right side of the graph
  - b. Draw a horizontal line to the correct Coefficient of Friction
  - c. Draw a vertical line to the bottom of the graph. This will indicate the vehicle's **MINIMUM** speed

I. Test Skids

1. A skid test can be made at or near the collision scene to determine the Coefficient of Friction of a particular road surface. **Test skids are the best method of determining the Coefficient of Friction**
2. These skid tests should not be done on a routine basis, and should have a supervisor's approval. **Safety is the main consideration in performing the tests.**
  - a. The speed (S) of the test vehicle should be measured by a radar unit. Test skids should be performed at speeds under 30 mph
  - b. The skid distance (d) is measured by the longest skid or an average of the tire mark lengths
  - c. The following formula is used to calculate the Coefficient of Friction (f) from test skids:
$$f = \frac{S^2}{30d}$$
  - d. The results can be applied to the Speed / Skid Chart
  - e. Record the results on the Speed / Skid chart where indicated

**IX. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

**(1 Hr.)**

A. Topic 7.0 Opening

1. Every motor vehicle collision leaves some signs
2. Discover these signs
3. Correctly interpret these signs

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B. Results of collision in the roadway

1. Final positions of vehicles and bodies
2. Controlled
3. Uncontrolled
4. Roadway scars
5. Gouges
6. Grooves
7. Scratches
8. Debris

C. From vehicle underbody

1. Vehicle liquids
2. Spilled cargo

D. Fixed objects

E. Evidence that a vehicle left the roadway surface

F. Determining the Area of Impact (AOI)

1. Area where first contact was made
2. Usually an area of several feet
3. Should be substantiated from physical evidence, if possible, not estimated
4. Evidence may be very subtle
5. Methods of determination

a. Sudden change in direction of tire marks

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- b. Gouge or scrape marks
- c. Debris cone or liquids
- d. Statements

**X. PRESERVATION AND DOCUMENTATION (1 Hr.)**

A. Topic 7.0.1 Opening

- 1. Continuation of topic 7.0

B. Types of evidence

1. Non-recoverable

- a. Evaluate
- b. Photograph
- c. Measure
- d. Record or document

2. Recoverable

- a. Identify
- b. Photograph
- c. Measure
- d. Record or document
- e. Recover and book

3. Learning Activity

- a. Give collision diagrams with skid marks and evidence
- b. Expected to measure and document items in writing

B. Photographing physical evidence

- 1. Why we use photography
- 2. Who can take photographs
- 3. Case law related to photography
- 4. Techniques
- 5. Equipment

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6. TID

C. Learning Activity

1. Shown slides of vehicles at traffic collision scenes
2. Evaluate photos and discuss their quality

**XI. PEDESTRIAN FACTORS (1 Hr. 30 Min)**

A. Topic 7.0.3 Opening

1. Continuation of topic 7.0

B. Pedestrian factors

1. Fabric, hair and tissue
  - a. May be found at scene or on vehicle
  - b. In Hit and Run, special photographs may be required to show contact for court evidence
2. Pedestrian clothing
  - a. Pedestrian clothing may contain glass or paint chips from the vehicle
  - b. Pedestrian clothing may leave imprint in paint of vehicle
  - c. Clothing **SHALL** be booked
  - d. Use proper booking method
3. Area of Impact indicators
  - a. Over deflection of tire mark (“ped bulge”)
  - b. Scuff mark from pedestrian’s shoes
  - c. Debris cone of articles that the pedestrian was wearing or carrying

**XII. EVIDENCE FROM VEHICLES (2 Hr.)**

A. Topic 7.0.2 Opening

1. Continuation of topic 7.0

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B. Occupant restraints

1. Presence
2. Evidence of usage

C. Brakes

1. Visual observation
2. Physical inspection

D. Tires

1. Visual inspection
2. Mismatch of tires
3. Air pressure

E. Matching vehicle parts and debris

1. Things to consider:
  - a. Color of parts
  - b. Markings on parts

F. Speedometer

1. Mechanical vs electronic

G. Collision damage – old vs new

1. Old damage
2. New damage

H. Suspension

1. Damage
2. Modifications

I. Lighting

1. Lamp analysis

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- a. Filament movement
- b. Bulb construction
- c. Determination of whether lamp was on or off

**XIII. CLASSROOM EXERCISE (30 Min)**

A. Using Texas and Barrington Crash photos, students will:

- 1. Come up with collision summary
- 2. Match up vehicle damage with evidence in photographs
- 3. Present on findings

**Day 4**

**XIV. RAILROAD COLLISIONS (1 Hr.)**

A. Opening Topic 4.0.1 – Rail and Grade Crossing Collision Investigation

- 1. Ask students about their experience with Railroad collision investigation

B. General LAPD policy regarding rail incidents

- 1. Traffic Divisions responsible for :
  - a. Collisions at Grad crossing
  - b. Collisions on rail right of ways
  - c. Pedestrian on rail right of way
  - d. Suicide attempts or suicides

C. Reporting policies

- 1. Report needed when a conveyance causes death, injury or property damage
- 2. Train vs vehicle and train vs pedestrian complete a crash report with a scale diagram
- 3. Review procedures for train vs pedestrian between grade crossings
  - a. Death report
  - b. CHP 555 Face sheet

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c. Diagram and CHP 556 supplemental

D. Reporting procedures

1. Party order

- a. Motor vehicle first
- b. Conveyances second
- c. Pedestrians last

2. Railroad employees

- a. Conductor
- b. Engineer
- c. Brakeman
- d. Rail/Operations manager
- e. Signal maintainer

3. Railroad nomenclature

- a. Tracks or Rails
- b. Ballasts
- c. Crossing Types
- d. Signs
- e. Signals
- f. Markings

4. Train types

- a. Metrolink
- b. Red line
- c. Blue line
- d. Green line
- e. Amtrak
- f. Southern pacific
- g. Union pacific

5. Train information

- a. Engines
- b. Car types

E. Investigation procedures

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1. First priority is to get the train moving
  - a. Obtain train information
  - b. Mark position of lead car
  - c. Photograph evidence
  - d. Obtain statements
    1. Consider getting statement at later date or riding train while getting statement
  - e. Coroner
  
2. If train is not at scene
  - a. Photograph scene
  - b. Get what info is available
  - c. Follow up rail yard
    1. NOTE: Hit and run does not apply to a conveyance
  
3. Track speed limits
  - a. 79 MPH – San Fernando valley Metrolink train from Santa Clarita
  - b. 60 MPH – San Fernando valley Metrolink train from Simi Valley
  - c. 40 MPH Freight trains
  - d. 60 MPH for Blue line
  - e. 50 MPH for Red line

**XV. STAGED COLLISIONS**

**(1 Hr.)**

- A. Topic 3.0.2 Opening
  1. Help students recognize the basic indicators of a staged crash
  
- B. Recognizing a staged collision
  1. Matching physical evidence to party and witness statements
    - a. Interviewing parties and witnesses
  
  2. Special focus on the statement of party-1
  
  3. Party recognition from previous investigations



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- a. Have you seen them at previous crash investigations?
- 4. Matching injuries with collision sequence
  - a. Do the injuries match the described crash and damage to vehicles
- 5. Which parties have insurance
- 6. Vehicle type involved
- 7. Number of occupants in each vehicle
- C. Collision fraud methods
  - 1. Swoop and squat
    - a. Two vehicles needed by criminals working together
    - b. One victim driving alone in a late model vehicle
    - c. Method:
      - 1. Describe actions of each involved party
  - 2. Collusive fraud
    - a. Two vehicles needed by criminals working together
    - b. Both parties are involved as accomplices in the crime
    - c. Method:
      - 1. Describe actions of each involved party
  - 3. Hit and run frauds
    - a. Two vehicles needed by criminals working together
    - b. Vehicle at scene has two or more occupants
    - c. Method:
      - 1. Describe actions of each involved party
  - 4. Drive down
    - a. One vehicle used

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- b. Common at intersections or parking lot entrances
- c. Method:
  - 1. Describe actions of each involved party
- 5. Principal people involved
  - a. Cappers
    - 1. May be send at this scene and other scenes
    - 2. Tend to work a specific area
    - 3. May be seen talking to party-2 and leave as you approach
    - 4. Serve as the middle man (collusive fraud) with doctors and lawyers
  - b. Stagers
    - 1. May be passenger of party-2
    - 2. Won't get involved with parties directly
    - 3. Present to oversee the statements made by parties involved

**XVI. DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

**(2 Hr.)**

A. Topic 9.0.1 Opening

- 1. As police officers, one of our duties at scene of a traffic crash is to discern weather or not a crime has occurred. One of these crimes is "impaired driving" (also known as Driving Under the Influence or DUI)

B. DUI detection phases

- 1. Phase one: vehicle in motion
  - a. No headlights
  - b. Weaving in lane or between lanes
  - c. Inappropriately slow or fast driving
  - d. Ignoring traffic controls
- 2. Phase two: Initial driver contact / objective symptoms
  - a. Odor of alcoholic beverage
  - b. Odor of drug
  - c. Condition of eyes

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- d. Speech
  - e. Balance / coordination
  - 3. Phase three: Pre-arrest screening
    - a. Standardized Field Sobriety Test
- C. The Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST)
- 1. The SFSTs are a standardized set of three sobriety test. They are denoted with an “\*” on the Driving Under the Influence LAPD Form (Form 05.02.05)
    - a. Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN)\*
    - b. Walk and turn test \*
    - c. One leg stand test \*
  - 2. Additional Sobriety Test used
    - a. Finger to nose test
    - b. Romberg test
- D. Reporting procedures
- 1. Misdemeanor DUI
    - a. 23152 California Vehicle Code
      - 1. Review the current misdemeanor DUI Sections
  - 2. Felony DUI
    - a. 23153 California Vehicle Code
    - b. Review the current felony DUI Sections
  - 3. Unbooked DUI
    - a. Review requirements
  - 4. Attachments
    - a. DUI Arrest Report
    - b. SFST Verbiage
    - c. DMV Admin Per Se Forms
    - d. Combined T/C and Arrest Exemplar

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E. DUI sections

1. Adult and juvenile arrest
2. Juveniles and adults under 21 years of age
  - a. Juveniles
  - b. Adults under 21 years of age

**XVII. INTERVIEWING - HUMAN FACTORS**

**(1Hr 30 Min)**

A. Topic 9.0 Opening

1. As police Officers, two of our jobs at scenes of traffic crashes are to determine if a crime has occurred and attempt to name the party most at fault. To accomplish this, we must interview parties involved, witnesses and passengers.
2. Order of interviews
  - a. Independent witnesses
  - b. Parties
  - c. Passengers

B. Interview methodology

1. Prejudiced witness's vs independent witnesses
  - a. Prejudiced witnesses
  - b. Independent witnesses
    1. Witness location
    2. Perception vs reality
    3. Interview vs interrogation

C. Documentation of statements

1. There are two main type of statements:
  - a. Paraphrased statements
    1. Least desirable type of statement

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- b. Verbatim statements
  - 1. These are quoted version of exactly what was said
  - 2. Avoid police terminology
  - 3. Place your initials after the statement

D. Completing the Traffic Supplemental

- 1. It is recommended that verbatim statements be written on the CHP Form 556 supplemental
- 2. It is also recommended that these statements be captured on BWV and uploaded to Evidence.com
  - a. All officers involved or witness to a traffic crash shall complete an “Employee Statement” on a CHP Form 556

**XVIII. VEHICLE CODE**

**(2 Hr. 30 Min)**

A. Topic 3.0 Opening

- 1. Issuing citations at collision scenes
- 2. Leading causes of collisions
- 3. Additional causes of collisions
- 4. “Other associated factors”
- 5. Impounding vehicles at collision scenes
- 6. Tow trucks and required equipment

B. Issuing citations at collision scenes

- 1. Conditions under which issuance of a citation is accepted;
  - a. Per California Law, a citation may be issued for the primary collision factor if **all** the following conditions are met;
  - b. The officer has successfully completed a POST approved collision investigation course
  - c. There is reasonable cause to believe that the person involved in the collision has violated a provision of the Vehicle Code not declared to be a felony or Los Angeles Municipal Code
  - d. The violation was a factor in the occurrence of the collision

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- e. All the essential elements of the violation can be proven by physical evidence only and testified to by the officer issuing the citation  
**HOWEVER** - Per the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, officers shall not issue a citation for primary collision factor
- 2. Any officer may issue a citation at the scene of a traffic collision when;
  - a. All elements of the violation can be testified to by the citing officer as a result of the on-scene investigation
  - b. The violation was not a factor in the occurrence of the collision
  - c. The below listed violations are involved;
    - 1. 4000 – 5204 VC – Registration of Vehicles
    - 2. 12951 VC – Possession of Driver's License
    - 3. 16028 VC – Financial Responsibility
    - 4. Division 12 (sections 24000 – 28160 VC) – Equipment
  - d. Requests for filing
    - 1. Officers shall request filing for all misdemeanor violations;
      - i. Within the CHP 555 Traffic Crash Report if no arrest
      - ii. Or within an arrest report
  - e. All violations must be handled in the same manner
  - f. If any party, passenger or witness is arrested, Officers shall not issue a citation

C. Leading causes of collisions (“primary crash factors”)

- 1. 22350 VC (Basic Speed Law)
  - a. No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the highway, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property
- 2. 21801 (a) VC (Unsafe Left or U-Turn)
  - a. The driver of a vehicle intending to turn to the left or to complete a U-turn upon a highway, or to turn left into public or private property, or an alley, shall yield the right-

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of-way to all vehicles approaching from the opposite direction which are close enough to constitute a hazard at any time during the turning movement, and shall continue to yield the right-of-way to the approaching vehicles until the left turn or U-turn can be made with reasonable safety

3. 23152 [(a) through (g)] VC (Misdemeanor Driving Under the Influence)
  - a. It is unlawful for a person who is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage to drive a vehicle
  - b. It is unlawful for a person who has 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive a vehicle
  - c. It is unlawful for a person who is addicted to the use of any drug to drive a vehicle
  - d. It is unlawful for a person who has 0.04 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in Section 15210
  - e. Commencing July 1, 2018, it shall be unlawful for a person who has 0.04 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive a motor vehicle when a passenger for hire is a passenger in the vehicle at the time of the offense
  - f. It is unlawful for a person who is under the influence of any drug to drive a vehicle
  - g. It is unlawful for a person who is under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage and drug to drive a vehicle
  
4. 23153 [(a) through (g)] VC (Felony Driving Under the Influence)
  - a. It is unlawful for a person, while under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, to drive a vehicle and concurrently do any act forbidden by law, or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, which act or neglect proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver
  - b. It is unlawful for a person, while having 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive a vehicle and concurrently do any act forbidden by law, or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle,

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which act or neglect proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver

- c. In proving the person neglected any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, it is not necessary to prove that any specific section of this code was violated
- d. It is unlawful for a person, while having 0.04 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in Section 15210 and concurrently to do any act forbidden by law or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, which act or neglect proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver
- e. Commencing July 1, 2018, it shall be unlawful for a person, while having 0.04 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive a motor vehicle when a passenger for hire is a passenger in the vehicle at the time of the offense, and concurrently to do any act forbidden by law or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, which act or neglect proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver
- f. It is unlawful for a person, while under the influence of any drug, to drive a vehicle and concurrently do any act forbidden by law, or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, which act or neglect proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver
- g. It is unlawful for a person, while under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage and drug, to drive a vehicle and concurrently do any act forbidden by law, or neglect any duty imposed by law in driving the vehicle, which act or neglect proximately causes bodily injury to any person other than the driver

5. 21453 (a) VC (Red Light, Failure to Stop)

- a. A driver facing a steady circular red signal alone shall stop at a marked limit line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection, and shall remain stopped until an indication to proceed is shown, except as provided in subdivision (b)
- b. (b) Except when a sign is in place prohibiting a turn, a driver, after stopping as required by subdivision (a),



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facing a steady circular red signal, may turn right, or turn left from a one-way street onto a one-way street. A driver making that turn shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to any vehicle that has approached or is approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard to the driver and shall continue to yield the right-of-way to that vehicle until the driver can proceed with reasonable safety

6. 21703 VC (Following too Closely)

- a. The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicle and the traffic upon, and the condition of, the roadway

7. 22106 VC (Starting or Backing When Unsafe)

- a. No person shall start a vehicle stopped, standing, or parked on a highway, nor shall any person back a vehicle on a highway until such movement can be made with reasonable safety

D. Supplemental causes of collisions (“Other Associated Factors”)

1. 21802(a) VC (Yield Right of Way from Stop Sign)

- a. The driver of any vehicle approaching a stop sign at the entrance to, or within, an intersection shall stop as required by Section 22450. The driver shall then yield the right-of-way to any vehicles which have approached from another highway, or which are approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard and shall continue to yield the right-of-way to those vehicles until he or she can proceed with reasonable safety

2. 21658(a) VC (“Lane Straddling,” or Failure to Maintain Lane Position)

- a. Whenever any roadway has been divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for traffic in one direction, the following rules apply:

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1. (a) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practical entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from the lane until such movement can be made with reasonable safety
2. (b) Official signs may be erected directing slow-moving traffic to use a designated lane or allocating specified lanes to traffic moving in the same direction, and drivers of vehicles shall obey the directions of the traffic device
3. 21804(a) VC (Yield Right of Way from Public / Private Property, or an Alley)
  - a. The driver of any vehicle about to enter or cross a highway from any public or private property, or from an alley, shall yield the right-of-way to all traffic, as defined in Section 620, approaching on the highway close enough to constitute an immediate hazard, and shall continue to yield the right-of-way to that traffic until he or she can proceed with reasonable safety
4. 21954(a) VC (Pedestrian Outside Crosswalk)
  - a. Every pedestrian upon a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway so near as to constitute an immediate hazard
5. 22450(a) VC (Failure to Stop for Stop Sign)
  - a. The driver of any vehicle approaching a stop sign at the entrance to, or within, an intersection shall stop at a limit line, if marked, otherwise before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection. If there is no limit line or crosswalk, the driver shall stop at the entrance to the intersecting roadway
6. 22107 VC (Unsafe Turning Movement and / or Failure to Signal)
  - a. No person shall turn a vehicle from a direct course or move right or left upon a roadway until such movement can be made with reasonable safety and then only after

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the giving of an appropriate signal in the manner provided in this chapter in the event any other vehicle may be affected by the movement

7. 21650 VC (Driving on Right Side of Roadway)

- a. Upon all highways, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:
  1. When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing that movement
  2. When placing a vehicle in a lawful position for, and when the vehicle is lawfully making, a left turn
  3. When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic under construction or repair
  4. Upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic
  5. When the roadway is not of sufficient width
  6. When the vehicle is necessarily traveling so slowly as to impede the normal movement of traffic, that portion of the highway adjacent to the right edge of the roadway may be utilized temporarily when in a condition permitting safe operation

8. 21950(a) VC (Pedestrian's Right of Way in Crosswalk)

- a. The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, except as otherwise provided in this chapter

9. 21460(a) VC (Driving on Wrong Side of Double Yellow Center Line)

- a. If double parallel solid yellow lines are in place, a person driving a vehicle shall not drive to the left of the lines, except as permitted in this section

10. 21955 VC (Jaywalking)

- a. Between adjacent intersections controlled by traffic control signal devices or by police officers, pedestrians shall not cross the roadway at any place except in a crosswalk

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E. Primary Crash Factor (“PCF”)

1. Indicate the Party number deemed most at fault for the crash
2. If unable to determine (no independent witnesses, video, etc), indicate Vehicle Code section violated (e.g.; Stop Sign or Red Light) and “X” for Party number
3. “PCF” – indicate the main, or primary, cause of the crash
  - a. Whenever possible, this should be a California Vehicle Code (CVC) violation
  - b. “Other Improper Driving” is used on private property or when the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle is driving under the conditions specified in 21055 VC, the driver is exempt from specific CVC violations
  - c. “Other Than Driver” is used if the crash was beyond the control of the driver (e.g.; animal runs in front of vehicle, medical emergency, mechanical failure, etc.)
  - d. “Unknown” is only used when the cause of the crash cannot be determined – thoroughly explain this within the narrative
4. “Other Associated Factor(s)”
  - a. Often overlooked by investigators
  - b. Used to describe an additional or contributing cause of the crash

F. Impounding vehicles at crash scenes

1. Officers are to be guided by the Community Caretaking Doctrine, and may impound vehicles at the scene of a collision for the following sections;
2. Hit and Run
  - a. Vehicle must be impounded by a Peace Officer
  - b. Vehicle must be on the highway or on private property that’s open to the public (not locked in a garage, carport, or behind a locked gate – a warrant would be necessary)
  - c. Vehicle must have been involved in a Hit and Run
  - d. Vehicle may be impounded and held per 22655(a) VC in order to identify the driver

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3. Hold to identify pursued driver
  - a. Vehicle must be impounded by a Peace Officer
  - b. Vehicle must be on the highway or on private property that's open to the public (not locked in a garage, carport, or behind a locked gate – a warrant would be necessary)
  - c. Driver in vehicle must have been fleeing from a pursuing Officer (2800.1 or 2800.2 VC)
  - d. Vehicle may be impounded and held per 22655.3 VC in order to identify the driver
  - e. Vehicle may NOT be held if / once the driver is identified or arrested
  
4. Evidence of crime (other than hit and run)
  - a. Vehicle must be impounded by a Peace Officer
  - b. Vehicle must be on the highway or on private property that's open to the public (not locked in a garage, carport, or behind a locked gate – a warrant would be necessary)
  - c. Vehicle must have been involved in a crime OTHER THAN Hit and Run
  - d. Vehicle may be impounded and held per 22655.5 VC
  
5. Other impound authorities (without holds)
  - a. 22651(b) VC – vehicle blocking roadway
  - b. 22651(c) VC – stolen vehicle recovered
  - c. 22651 (g) VC – driver transported to the hospital
  - d. 22651 (h) VC – driver arrested

G. Tow truck and required equipment

1. Per 27700 (a) VC; Tow trucks shall be equipped with and carry all of the following:
  - a. One or more brooms, and the driver of the tow truck engaged to remove a disabled vehicle from the scene of an accident shall remove all glass and debris deposited upon the roadway by the disabled vehicle which is to be towed
  - b. One or more shovels, and whenever practical the tow truck driver engaged to remove any disabled vehicle shall

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- spread dirt upon that portion of the roadway where oil or grease has been deposited by the disabled vehicle
- c. One or more fire extinguishers of the dry chemical or carbon dioxide type with an aggregate rating of at least 4-B, C units and bearing the approval of a laboratory nationally recognized as properly equipped to make the approval

**Day 5**

- XIX. EXAM** **(1 Hr.)**
- A. Administer exam
  - B. Grade exam

- XX. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES** **(2 Hr.)**

**NOTE:** The policies and procedures section of this course is very extensive. As a result, it has been broken down into two parts. The first part is taught on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the course, and the latter part is taught on the last day.

- A. Topic 2.0 Opening
  1. Continuation from day 1
- B. City Property Involved (CPI) traffic collisions
  1. Bureau of Street Lighting
  2. Bureau of Street Maintenance
  3. Transportation Department
  4. Water and Power Department
- C. Not CPI
  1. Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)
  2. Los Angeles Unified School District Vehicles / police
  3. Freeway Call boxes
  4. Los Angeles County Housing Authority
  5. Los Angeles Airport Police and Harbor Police Department
- D. LAPD Mounted Detail
- E. LAPD Bicycles

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1. These are considered CPI
- F. Duties of LAPD employees involved in traffic collisions
- G. CPI collisions occurring outside LAPD jurisdiction
- H. Administrative reports
  1. Provide report exemplar
- I. On-duty officer involved in a traffic collision
- J. Investigating officer's duties
- K. Employee's statement
  1. Documented on CHP 556
  2. Review what is required
- L. California Insurance Code and traffic collision notification
- M. City Property Involved Property Damage Only (CPI – PDO)
- N. Injuries Classifications
  1. Fatal Injury
  2. Suspected Serious Injury
  3. Suspected Minor Injury
  4. Possible Injury
- O. Late reporting of injury traffic collisions
- P. The path of a traffic collision report
  1. No arrest, filing, or follow-up
  2. Misdemeanor traffic arrest
  3. Felony traffic arrest

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4. To be assigned for follow-up (filing or additional investigation)

**Q. Traffic collision reporting requirements**

1. Scale diagram and verbatim statements needed for:
  - a. Fatal Injury
  - b. Suspected Serious Injury
  - c. Unbooked DUI Driver
  - d. ALL CPI vehicles and/or where there is possibility of City liability
  
2. Traffic Crashes that require a sketch and paraphrased statements:
  - a. Hit and Run with visible or complained of pain
  - b. DUI Crashes
  
3. Traffic Crashes that will be filed online through the Community Online Reporting System (CORS)
  - a. Suspected Minor or Possible injury Crashes
  - b. Hit and Run misdemeanors
    1. Without suspect information
  - c. Minor CPI

**R. Advice to parties involved in traffic collisions**

1. Advise to exchange information, if no report taken
2. Ensure exchange of information is done, if report is taken
3. Refer parties to their insurance company
4. Explain to file an "E" report on CORS, if no report taken
5. Explain how to obtain a report
6. Refer to Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for SR-1 Form

**S. Traffic policy questions**

1. Traffic Report Auditor at the concerned Traffic Division can address most Traffic policy and procedure questions
  
2. MCIT can be contacted if further advice is needed



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- T. General provisions
  - 1. Corrections to traffic collision reports
    - a. Prior to distribution
    - b. After distribution
  
- U. Traffic manual deviations
  - 1. Any deviation should be documented in the “remarks” section with name, rank and serial number of who approved the deviation
  
- V. Fatal traffic crash investigation procedures
  - 1. Same basic approach to all crash investigations, however, if there is a death, the scene will be treated as a crime scene
  
  - 2. Review all fatal crash investigation procedures
  
- W. Dead bodies – coroner cases and notifications
  - 1. Review all fatal crash death notifications
  
- X. Traffic collision report completion
  - 1. Primary street
  - 2. Page numbering
  - 3. Special conditions
  - 4. Party listing order
  - 5. Injured / Witness / Passenger page
  - 6. Diagram
  - 7. Station reports

**XXI. FIELD PRACTICAL**

**(5 Hrs.)**

- A. Students will interview instructors as parties to a severe turn fatal crash

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- B. Students will take all necessary measurement for completing a full-scale diagram
- C. Students will gather all necessary information to complete a full traffic crash report
- D. Students will submit diagram and complete crash report to instructors
  - 1. Instructors will grade and review with students
- E. Students will complete course critique