

EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE  
REGULAR BASIC COURSE  
**LEARNING DOMAIN 29**  
TRAFFIC COLLISION INVESTIGATIONS

I. LEARNING NEED

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.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Discuss safety hazards that officers should be aware of when approaching the scene of a traffic collision
  - 1. Fleeing vehicles/persons
  - 2. Hazardous materials
  - 3. Fire, smoke, vapor clouds, odors
- B. Demonstrate appropriate peace officer actions when managing a vehicle collision scene, including:
  - 1. Caring for injured and involved parties
  - 2. Protecting the collision scene
  - 3. Collecting and preserving evidence

12. LEARNING NEED

To accurately determine the events and factors associated with a collision, peace officers must recognize the types and importance of evidence likely to be available at a collision scene.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Distinguish between different types of physical evidence that may be located at a collision scene and recognize the type of information they may provide
  - 1. Debris
  - 2. Fluids
  - 3. Road scars
- B. Distinguish between a skid mark and a tire impression
  - 1. Darkened roadway material left by a tire that is not free to rotate,
  - 2. Mark left by a rotating tire that has gone through a liquid or other soft material leaving a “print” of the tire’s tread pattern
  - 3. May also be found in snow, slush, sand, mud, grass, or another impressionable surface
- C. Describe ways of linking a tire mark with a particular vehicle
  - 1. Check the condition of the vehicle’s tires,
  - 2. Compare the track width of the vehicle to the skid mark
  - 3. Note the position of the vehicle at the collision scene
- D. Classify the three causes of skid marks

1. Extreme deceleration
  2. Extreme acceleration
  3. Extreme change of direction
- E. Describe the variables to consider when determining the order of taking measurements at a vehicle collision scene
1. Items which are at risk or easily moved
  2. Items that will be moved
  3. Fixed objects or areas
- F. Determine appropriate reference points/lines to use when taking measurements at a vehicle collision scene
1. Based on fixed objects
  2. Two different fixed points
  3. Measurement techniques
- G. Distinguish between primary collision factor and associated collision factor
1. The one element or driving action which in the officer's opinion best describes the primary or main cause of the collision
  2. A factor or vehicle code violations(s) that contributed to the collision, but was not the main cause
  3. Other than the driver

### 13. LEARNING NEED

Evidence collected at a collision scene can be rendered useless or inadmissible if it is not properly documented. Peace officers must recognize and follow standardized documentation formats for traffic collisions to ensure that the evidence they collect is understandable and usable by other officers, and other agencies.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Describe the components of standardized reporting formats used to document a collision
1. Face page
  2. Statistical data page
  3. Injury
- B. Distinguish between the types of collision documentation, including:
1. Collision investigation format
  2. Collision report format
- C. Prepare components of a traffic collision report, including:
1. Description of injuries
  2. Identification of involved parties and vehicles
  3. Time and location of collision events
  4. Chronology of the collision events
  5. Elements unique to hit-and-run and driving-under-the-influence collisions
  6. Primary and associated collision factors
  7. Area(s) of impact
  8. Scene sketch

- D. Distinguish between information to be included in the narrative of a collision investigation format under each of the following categories:
  - 1. Facts
  - 2. Statements
  - 3. Opinions and conclusions
  - 4. Recommendations
- E. Distinguish between a collision sketch and a factual diagram
  - 1. Officers opinion
  - 2. Specific symbols
  - 3. Diagram of scene after collision
- F. Prepare content features and elements to be included on a:
  - 1. Collision scene sketch
  - 2. Factual diagram

#### 14. REQUIRED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- A. 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:
  - 1. Determining compass direction
  - 2. Methods to determine the area(s) of impact
  - 3. Identification of physical evidence
  - 4. Scene measurement techniques
- B. The student will participate in a learning activity involving a traffic collision scene. The student will demonstrate the following:
  - 1. An understanding of an officer's responsibilities at a traffic collision scene, including:
    - a. Protection of injured parties and the collision site
    - b. Performance of investigative tasks
    - c. Completion of a traffic collision report
  - 2. The ability to manage a traffic collision scene, including:
    - a. Establishing scene priorities and developing a plan of action
    - b. Identifying and controlling scene hazards
    - c. Providing first aid for the injured parties
    - d. Protecting the collision site
    - e. Evaluating and requesting additional assistance, if needed
  - 3. The ability to perform traffic collision investigative tasks, including:
    - a. Identifying and preserving collision evidence
    - b. Information gathering and interviewing of involved parties or witnesses
    - c. Establishing the area(s) of impact
    - d. Determining the primary collision factor
  - 4. The ability to complete a traffic collision report, including:
    - a. Description of injuries
    - b. Identification of involved parties and vehicles
    - c. Time and location of collision events

- d. Chronology of the collision events
  - e. Elements unique to hit and run and DUI collisions
  - f. Primary and associated collision factors
  - g. Area(s) of impact
  - h. Scene sketch
5. The ability to complete a legible traffic collision sketch that records the officer's opinion as to how the collision occurred which includes:
- a. Compass direction
  - b. Basic measurements of the roadway
  - c. Appropriate symbols/illustrations
  - d. Area(s) of impact
  - e. Travel paths of vehicles and parties involved
  - f. Reference points and direction
  - g. Items labeled appropriately (parties, streets, signs, etc.)

Description	Hours
POST Minimum Required Hours	<u>12</u>
Agency Specific Hours	<u>2</u>
Total Instructional Hours	<u>14</u>