

Overview of Lesson 1

SUBJECT: Introduction to Traffic Crash Investigation

Law Enforcement personnel, including traffic crash investigators, receive reports of, respond to and investigate traffic crashes.

This lesson will provide an overview of the traffic crash investigation process by outlining for the student the procedures for taking and recording a report of a traffic crash, proceeding to the scene, protecting the scene, taking action under the many circumstances which may be encountered at the scene, and conducting the investigation.

The investigator needs certain basic equipment in order to perform his duties. An inventory of required items is appended to this lesson.

The investigator must be familiar with the terms used in crash investigation and with their meanings. A guide to these terms is provided at the end of this lesson immediately before the Crash Investigator's Inventory.

Lesson Contents

This lesson will cover the following topics:

- a. General
- b. At-scene duties
- c. Receiving report of crash
- d. Proceeding to the scene
- e. Arrival at the scene
- f. Priority setting
- g. Injured persons
- h. Assistance
- i. Traffic control
- j. Personal property
- k. Highway flares
- l. Precaution in use of flares

- m. Flare pattern
- n. Fires and hazardous materials
- o. Hazardous materials (see DOT labels)
- p. Hazardous materials notification chart
- q. Vehicle fire investigation
- r. The at-scene investigation
- s. Witnesses and drivers
- t. Hit and run
- u. Hit-and-run driver
- v. Hit-and-run vehicle
- w. Hit-and-run victim
- x. Hit-and-run follow-up investigation
- y. Vehicle inspection
- z. Crash causes
- a. Enforcement
- b. Before leaving the scene
- c. Follow-up investigation
- d. Traffic crash definitions, types and classifications
- e. Crashes
- f. Persons
- g. Vehicles
- h. Trafficway
- i. Traffic crash investigator's inventory

Lesson Objectives

1. Upon completion of this lesson, the student will be able to define:
 - a. *Crash*
 - b. *Highway*
 - c. *Traffic crash investigation*
 - d. *Traffic unit*
 - e. *Trafficway*

2. Upon completion of this lesson, the student will be able to state to the instructor's satisfaction:
 - a. The objectives of a traffic crash investigation
 - b. The initial information required when the report of a traffic crash is received
 - c. The criteria for determining the speed or urgency with which a trip to a crash scene should be made
 - d. The immediate duties relating to scene protection that must be carried out upon arrival at the crash scene
 - e. The steps that must be taken to ensure completeness of an investigation
 - f. The additional steps that must be taken in a hit-and-run crash investigation
 - g. The steps that should be taken when interviewing drivers and witnesses

And will be able to state at least:

- h. Three highway engineering problems that can contribute to crash causes
- i. Three atmospheric conditions that can contribute to crash causes
- j. Three sources of information that will identify hazardous materials
- k. Three recognized agencies or departments that should be notified of materials spill