### **Drivers Awareness Training Outline**

# **Tulare County Sheriff's Office**

- Introductions / Overview of Course
- Basic Driving Principles
  - Weight Transfer
    - Weight distributed between front and rear wheels
    - Engine location has greater part of weight distribution
    - Types of weight transfer
      - Lateral: side to side
      - Longitudinal: front to rear / rear to front
    - Lateral transfer created when vehicle turned left / right
    - Longitudinal transfer created when
      - Braking rear / front
      - Accelerating front / rear
      - Decelerating rear / front
    - Can't be eliminated in a moving vehicle
    - Minimized by good driving techniques and smooth operation
  - Steering Control
    - Seating position
      - Driver comfort
      - Efficient vehicle control
      - Wrist break over top steering wheel
      - Seated 12" from air bag
      - Adjust mirrors
    - Steering Method Two Hand Shuffle Steering
      - Hand position at 9 and 3 or 8 and 4
      - Hands do not leave steering wheel
      - Maximizes steering wheel
      - Safer and more effective recovery
      - Minimizes weight transfer
      - Minimizes air bag deployment injury
    - Steering Method Backing
      - Body rotated to right
      - Right hand placed on right headrest
      - Vision directed over right shoulder
      - Left hand on steering wheel at twelve o'clock position
      - Press left leg against bottom of steering wheel for stability
      - Left foot braced on floor board
  - Roadway Position

- Definition: The position of the vehicle on the roadway that maximizes speed with minimum steering and risk of loss of vehicle control while negotiating a turn
  - AKA Driving Line
- Driving Advantages
  - Minimize and control weight transfer
  - Minimize steering input
  - Smoother vehicle operation
  - Maximum speed through turns in the safest manner
- Driving Points in a Turn
  - Entry (Point 1)
  - Apex (Point 2)
  - Exit (Point 3)

#### Throttle Control

- Full throttle is total depression of accelerator pedal
- Maximum acceleration is accelerating as quickly as possible to full throttle without losing traction
- Increased throttle will widen the arc of the driving line in a turn, and will increase weight transfer
- Decrease of throttle will tighten the arc of the driving line in a turn

# Speed Judgement

- The ability of a driver to estimate a safe speed for any given situation
- Considerations
  - Road conditions
  - Type of driving maneuvers
  - Driver limitations
  - Vehicle limitations
  - Weather limitations
- Closure Rate
  - Being able to judge the proper rate of deceleration necessary to negotiate a curve, avoid a hazard, or a stop
- Brake Application
  - Types of braking
    - Normal
    - o Panic
    - o ABS
    - o Threshold
      - 0-10 scale
      - More cooling time
      - Allows speed for longer distance before brake application
      - Steering always available

# • Legal and Moral Aspects

- o California Codes
  - 17001 CVC
  - 17004 CVC
  - 17004.7 CVC
  - 21052 CVC
  - 21055 CVC
  - 21056 CVC
  - 21057 CVC
  - 21806 CVC
  - 21807 CVC
  - 22350 CVC

### Case Law

- Brummett v. County of Sacramento
- Stark v. City of Los Angeles

# Agency Policy

- Code 3 Policy TCSO General Order 95-17
  - Justification for Code 3
  - Notification and Authorization
  - Definition and Considerations
  - Emergency Vehicle Operations during pursuit

### Moral Aspects

- Initiating or Terminating a Pursuit
  - Factors to consider
  - Initiating the pursuit
  - Terminating the pursuit
  - Suspects known?
  - Misdemeanor or felony?
  - Risk to the public risk of pursuit, risk of suspect
  - Highly populated areas v. rural areas
  - Supporting units, radio procedures

### • Defensive Driving

#### Defensive Drivers

- Avoid collisions regardless of right-of-way
- React properly to hazards
- Maintain a professional attitude

### O Dangerous Driver Attitudes

- Overconfidence
- Self-Righteousness
- Impatience
- Preoccupation

### Collision Avoidance

- Space cushion
  - Three second rule
  - Perception / reaction time
  - When stopped, see rear wheels
- Intersections
  - Clear left, right, then left again
  - Cover brake on stale green
  - Don't turn wheels until ready for turn
  - Look through turns
- Maintain high visual horizon
  - Consider steering to the rear of a conflict vehicle
- Backing
  - Large percentage of collisions involving LE vehicles
  - Use proper backing techniques
- Lane Changes
  - Signal
- Blind spots
- Occupant Safety Devices
  - Safety belts
  - Supplemental restraint system (Air bags)
- Vehicle Dynamics
  - Rear wheel cheat
  - Front-end swing
  - Over-steer
  - Under-steer

# Maneuvering Course Exercises

- Offset lane exercise
- Turn-around maneuver course
- Steering course exercise
- T-driveway
- Parallel parking exercise

### • Vehicle Care and maintenance

- Pre-shift vehicle inspection
  - General appearance
  - Tires
    - Pressure
    - Wear
  - Wheels
  - Lights
  - Trunk
    - Spare tire
    - Fire extinguisher

- Jack / lug wrench
- Flares
- First aid kit
- Blanket
- Body damage
- Interior
  - Trash / debris
  - Clean windows
  - Adjust seat and mirrors
  - Check gauges
  - Brakes
  - Secure gear
  - Seatbelts
- Listen for unusual sounds

# • Vehicle Operation Factors

- Operational Tactics and Considerations
  - Radio
    - Distracted driving
    - Broadcast while driving a straight line
    - Stay calm and speak clearly
  - Use of MDT / Computer
    - Stop in a safe place before using any equipment that requires you to take your eyes of the road
    - Use radio for communications of immediate nature
    - Collisions while operating the MDT / computer will usually be found to be preventable

# Blocking Access to Intersections

- Officer safety
- In pursuit, park off to side and get out of the way
- No guarantee of safety

### Blocking roadway

- Position vehicle appropriately
- Lighting
- Trunk
- Stand away from rear of vehicle
- Face traffic when walking

#### Exercises

- Collision Avoidance Exercise
- Skid Car Exercise
- o Code 3 / Pursuit Driving
- o Intervention Techniques / Risk Assessment