

LAW ENFORCEMENT DRIVING SIMULATOR (LEDS) 4 HOUR COURSE

Rev: June 11, 2020

I. LEARNING OUTCOME

- A. Officers attending this LEDS course will demonstrate improved decision making, judgment, and tactics while operating a police emergency vehicle.

II. TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

- A. Instructors will establish a learning environment for students to:
 1. Create a proactive attitude toward vehicle operation
 2. Increase officer survival and public safety
 3. Increase awareness as a driver
 4. Evaluate judgment and decision making skills
 5. Experience consequences of decisions

III. VEHICLE-RELATED DEATHS

- *Learning Objective: The student will be able to identify factors contributing to officer-involved deaths related to vehicle operation.*
 - A. Case studies
 - B. LEOKA Study
 - C. Officer Down Memorial web page (<http://www.odmp.org/>)
 - D. Local statistics

IV. DRIVING SIMULATOR PROGRAM APPLICATION

- *Learning Objective: N/A - Simulator Orientation Information*
 - A. Emphasizes judgment and proper driving tactics
 - B. Provides simulated life and death situations
 1. Allows dangerous conditions without risk
 2. Allows emergency driving practice w/o risk
 3. Not intended to replace hands on training
 4. Evaluates knowledge and judgment skills

V. SIMULATOR VEHICLE PERFORMANCE

- *Learning Objective: N/A - Simulator Orientation Information*
 - A. The simulator will perform similarly to a law enforcement vehicle
 - B. Limited depth perception
 - C. Weight transfer indicated by hood moving up and down/side to side
 - D. Accelerator/throttle usage
 1. Lack of sensation of speed
 2. Monitor digital speedometer on front screen
 3. Lack of sensation of movement

VI. SCENARIOS

- *Learning Objective: The student will be able to complete assigned simulator scenarios using the application and adaptation of emergency vehicle operation and control tactics presented in this course.*
 - A. Pre-programmed set of circumstances

1. Realistic driving situations
2. Progress from simple to complex
- B. Scenarios include:
 1. Normal - *Routine driving*
 2. Traffic stops
 3. Emergency response - *Code Three*
 4. Pursuits
 5. Night and inclement weather situations
- C. Allows students to experience the consequences of their decisions
 1. Proper driving tactics & hazard recognition
 2. Replay of critical decision areas
 3. Response to hazards
 4. Collisions
- D. Requires demonstration of decision making and knowledge of statute/policy
 1. Tactical decisions during and at the end of scenarios.
 2. State laws governing emergency vehicles
 3. Agency policy
 4. Accepted standards and procedures

VII. UNIVERSE AND SCENARIO ORIENTATION

- *Learning Objective: N/A - Simulator Orientation Information*
 - A. Use of universe map
 - B. GPS displayed on MDC/MCT

VIII. VEHICLE CONTROL TECHNIQUES

- *Learning Objective: The student will be able to explain the vehicle control techniques presented in class.*
- *Learning Objective: The student will be able to perform vehicle control techniques in response to varying conditions.*
 - A. “Real-world” vehicle behavior replicated by simulator
 - B. High Visual Horizon
 1. Look as far ahead as possible
 2. Peripheral vision
 3. Scanning with head movement
 - C. Steering
 1. Two handed “shuffle steering”
 2. Smooth steering inputs “steady wheel”
 3. Soft grip
 - D. Braking
 1. Right foot braking
 2. Threshold
 3. ABS - pounding of pedal
 4. Straight line braking
 5. Extended Release
 - E. Acceleration
 1. Use for collision avoidance
 2. Erratic application
 - F. Weight transfer
 1. Lateral (side to side)
 2. Longitudinal (front to back)

3. Vertical (up and down)
- G. Road position
 1. Apexing (high low high)
 2. Use proper driving line (center of roadway when code-3)
 3. Better visibility approaching blind corners
 4. Improves visibility of vehicles (You can see and be seen)
 5. Provides more room for evasive action
- H. Speed judgment (22350CVC)
 1. Speed and speedometer evaluation
 2. Closure rate
 3. Over-driving headlights
 4. Weather, road and traffic conditions

IX. DRIVE TO STAY ALIVE

- *Learning Objective: The student will be able to explain the need for proactive driving, defensive driving, and the mitigation of dangerous attitudes while operating an emergency vehicle.*

- A. Proactive Driving
 1. Maintaining vehicle control
 2. Seatbelt and airbags
 3. Anticipating hazards and actions of others
- B. Recognizing Dangerous Attitudes
 1. Overconfidence
 2. Self-righteousness
 3. Impatience
 4. Preoccupation
- C. Defensive Driving
 1. Maintaining a professional attitude
 2. Demonstrating good judgment and decision making skills
 3. Recognizing hazards
 4. Reacting properly to hazards
 5. Avoiding collisions regardless of right of way

X. INTERSECTION ANALYSIS

- *Learning Objective: The student will be able to demonstrate the steps of intersection analysis.*

- A. Start early before entering intersection
 1. Scan intersection for dangerous areas
 2. Identify hazardous areas and prepare for them (move away from danger)
 3. Look in all directions (left, center, right, left)
 4. Clear intersections lane by lane if necessary
 5. Both hands on the steering wheel
 6. Able to slow or stop as needed

XI. COLLISION AVOIDANCE

- *Learning Objective: The student will be able to explain considerations of collision avoidance.*
 - *Learning Objective: The student will be able to apply collision avoidance techniques and successfully adapt them to changing conditions.*
- A. Maintain a high visual horizon

- B. Perception and reaction time
 - 1. Speed
- C. Maintain a safe space cushion
 - 1. Anticipate other's actions
 - 2. Look through turns before entry
- D. Consider steering to the rear of the conflict vehicle
- E. Drive around the problem
- F. Radio use while driving
 - 1. Use while driving in a straight line, not at intersections
 - 2. Stay calm and speak clearly
 - 3. Provides recorded documentation of activities
 - 4. Avoid radio use while clearing intersections
- G. Dangerous Distractions
 - 1. Electronic devices
 - 2. Prisoners
 - 3. Eating & drinking
 - 4. Fatigue

XII. EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATION REGULATIONS

- *Learning Objective: The student will be able to explain emergency vehicle operation regulations.*

- A. Vehicle code section (21052 CVC)
 - 1. Routine driving (Non code-3)
 - 2. Obey all "rules of the road"
- B. Vehicle code section (21055 CVC)
 - 1. Provides exemption from "rules of the road"
 - 2. Proper lighting
 - 3. Proper siren as is reasonably necessary
 - 4. Conditions that allow for a code-3 driving (fire, emergency, rescue, pursuit)
- C. Vehicle code section (21056 CVC)
 - 1. Drive with due regard for others
 - 2. Regardless of RIGHT OF WAY
- D. Vehicle code section (21806 CVC)
 - 1. Other motorists' duty to yield
 - 2. Knowledge of approach
 - 3. See emergency light and hear siren
 - 4. Passing other vehicles (code-3)
 - 5. 21806 CVC requires motorists to pull to right and stop for emergency vehicles operating code-3
 - 6. Officers should allow motorists time to hear, see, react
 - 7. Since other drivers are to yield by pulling to the right side of the road, officers should avoid passing on the right.
- E. Vehicle code section (21807 CVC)
 - 1. Drive with due regard for safety of persons and property
- F. Vehicle code section (22350 CVC)
 - 1. Responsibility to drive at a speed with due regard for environmental factors
 - 2. Responsibility to drive at a speed which does not endanger safety of persons or property

- G. Vehicle code section (21809 CVC)
 - 1. On freeway
 - 2. Stationary emergency vehicle with illuminated emergency lighting
 - 3. Oncoming motorists must not move out of the adjacent lane or
 - 4. Slow to reasonable and prudent speed

XIII. EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATION TACTICS

- *Learning Objective: The student will be able to apply emergency vehicle operation tactics and adapt them to changing conditions.*
 - A. Close distance before attempting a traffic stop
 - 1. Driving with due regard for public safety
 - 2. Can the distance to the violator vehicle be closed using the rules of the road?
 - 3. Potential immunity & liability issues
 - 4. Agency policy & case law
 - B. Tactical Issues
 - 1. Activation of lights and siren
 - 2. Vary pitch of siren approaching intersections
 - 3. Consider backing off if an air unit is present
 - 4. Spacing of units to ensure safety
 - 5. Proper braking distance
 - 6. Sufficient reaction time/distance
 - 7. Avoid tracking & tunnel vision

XIV. PURSUIT CONSIDERATIONS (Penal Code § 13519.8(b), Vehicle Code §17004.7(c))

- *Learning Objective: The student will be able to evaluate their decisions and tactics to initiate, continue, and terminate pursuits.*
 - A. Penal Code section 13519.8
 - 1. Outlines the content and manner of training to be provided to allow for 17004.7VC immunity
 - B. Vehicle Code §17004.7
 - 1. Provides for public agency immunity if the agency adopts a written pursuit policy that includes specified standards and provides training on the policy on a regular basis.
 - C. The “Balance Test” should be used as a guide in determining whether or not to pursue.
 - 1. POST “California Law Enforcement Vehicle Pursuit Guidelines”
 - 2. The need for apprehension weighed against the risk to officers, innocent motorists, and the public.
 - 3. All persons involved are held accountable
 - 4. Role of the supervisor should be well defined and understood
 - 5. Primary and secondary units only, unless additional authorized
 - D. Proactive Pursuit tactics
 - E. Factors influencing pursuit initiation, continuation, and termination:
 - F. Emotional Factors Impacting Pursuing Officers
 - 1. Siren syndrome (physiological)
 - 2. Adrenaline rush

3. Tunnel vision
 4. Need for self-control
 5. Post-pursuit discipline
- G. Pursuits Are Following Actions
1. No caravanning or paralleling by non-involved units
 2. No passing unless requested
- H. Proactive Pursuit tactics
- I. Blocking public access