

OBJECTIVE 3.5 Identify acceptable steering methods for use during an emergency response.

INTRODUCTION

The steering methods presented in Objective 2.14 are also acceptable for emergency response driving. Use of these steering methods will assist the officer in maintaining vehicle control during the increased speeds and dramatic cornering that occur during emergency response driving.

CONTENT

An officer needs to recognize that steering inputs at high speeds have a magnified impact on a vehicle's reaction. Searching 12 seconds ahead is critical to identifying approaching steering requirements. Steering actions are best made with gradual steering inputs, avoiding dramatic and sudden changes in vehicle direction. As more demanding cornering and turning maneuvers become necessary, the steering inputs will require adjustments. All steering inputs should be smooth and gradual, not dramatic and sudden.

Concentration on the desired direction of travel or targeting becomes more critical as speed increases.

Two-handed steering will yield greater control than steering with one hand.

SUMMARY

The student should realize that non-emergency steering methods will also work under emergency response driving conditions. By practicing the acceptable steering methods, the student will be able to maintain vehicle control for all driving needs.

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

LECTURE

Modify the content of Objective 2.14 to emphasize emergency response driving and present with this Objective. Identification of acceptable methods will not guarantee correct performance. Develop the opportunity for demonstrating these methods.

RESOURCES AND AIDS

1. Physics textbooks
2. Driver training books covering concepts of physics
3. Collision investigation textbooks
4. "Reference Points for Precision Driving," by Frederik Mottola

SUGGESTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

STUDENTS

Written or verbal responses to questions concerning steering method for emergency response driving.

COURSE

1. Observe officer's on-the-job performance during an emergency response
2. Review agency collision reports to see if incorrect steering methods were a contributing factor