

OBJECTIVE 2.2 Identify unique characteristics of law enforcement driving

INTRODUCTION

Due to the often difficult task of driving faced by law enforcement officers, it is important that the student identify the challenges of law enforcement driving. By concisely identifying what is unique to law enforcement driving, the student will be able to eliminate incorrect perceptions of the job function and increase the chances for demonstrating correct knowledge, skills, and behaviors for law enforcement driving.

CONTENT

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS

1. Compliance with state laws and agency policy regarding pursuit and emergency responses involving driving actions that are normally illegal is mandatory. Knowledge of the relevant law and policy is critical to correct decision making.
2. There are different public reactions to the sight of an emergency vehicle. It will cause many changes in driving behavior from subtle to extreme.
3. Maintaining society's expectations of the emergency vehicle operator:
 - a. Complying with all motor vehicle laws
 - b. Acting as a positive example to the community
 - c. Being ready for sudden emergency situations
4. Using radio communications during vehicle operation

Difficulty with performance of challenging driving maneuvers and simultaneous use of equipment, i.e., car phones, computers
5. Frequently driving under emotional stress
6. Dealing with the distractions to driving caused by transporting individuals under arrest, DWI suspects, and others

7. Driving on patrol
 - a. Observing buildings, pedestrians, drivers, license plate numbers, changes in actions of people
 - b. Comparing wanted notices to items listed above
 - c. Listening to the radio

SUMMARY

Many times law enforcement driving requires quick and efficient judgments by an officer. The student will be better able to identify and deal with the unique challenges presented by law enforcement driving with the recognition that law enforcement driving is unique.

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY**LECTURE**

Using the content suggested, the instructor can present the material to the class. Overhead projectors or hand-out materials will ease the note-taking burden for the student.

SMALL GROUP

Divide the class into groups of 4-6 students. Ask each group to list several unique characteristics of law enforcement driving. The instructor records responses from the groups and encourages class reaction to the list.

INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING WITH FOLLOW-UP GROUP DISCUSSION

Have the students research agency collision reports and determine which collisions were a direct result of factors unique to law enforcement driving. These findings are to be identified in the class discussions that follow. Instructor summarizes key points of discussion.

RESOURCES AND AIDS

1. Newspaper and magazine articles
2. Collision reports from state or agency level
3. Agency policies on image and performance standards
4. Manuals and textbooks on police conduct and ethics

SUGGESTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

STUDENTS

1. Written or verbal response to questions concerning unique characteristics of law enforcement driving and strategies used for dealing with these characteristics
2. Observation of strategies used by students to compensate for unique job characteristics experienced during driving exercises

COURSE

1. On-the-job performance evaluation of how these characteristics are being handled
2. Observe for additional unique characteristics

Unique Characteristics of Law Enforcement Driving

- Compliance with state laws and agency policy
- Different public reactions
- Society's expectations
- Radio Communication
- Driving under emotional stress
- Dealing with distractions to driving
- Driving on patrol