


# Driver Awareness Course

San Diego County Sheriff's Department  
In-Service Training Unit



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## Course Objectives

- Vehicle Regulations
- Statistics
- Vehicle Inspections
- Defensive Driving
- Vehicle Operations
- Practical Application

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## Emergency Vehicle Regulations

### 21052 CVC

- Normal Driving (Non Code-3)
- Obey all "rules of the road"



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Emergency Vehicle Regulations

21055 CVC

- Provides exemption for the “rules of the road” under certain conditions:
  - Fire
  - Emergency Response
  - Rescue
  - Pursuit

**FERP**

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Vehicle Regulations

27315 CVC

- Mandatory seatbelt law
- Unless required by the agency employing the public employee

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Policy and Procedure 5.5

- The driver of any county vehicle **SHALL** use and ensure **ALL** passengers use the available safety belt/shoulder harness restraint equipment installed in the vehicle before moving that vehicle.

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Officer Down Memorial Page

2018 Total: 150

Gunfire: 52

***Auto Related: 49***

All Other: 49

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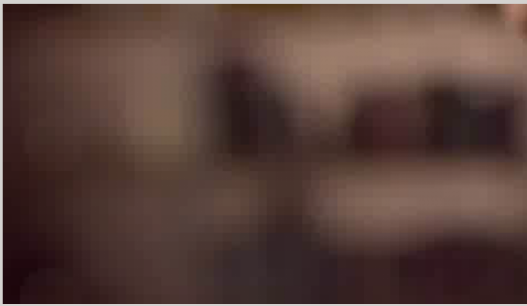
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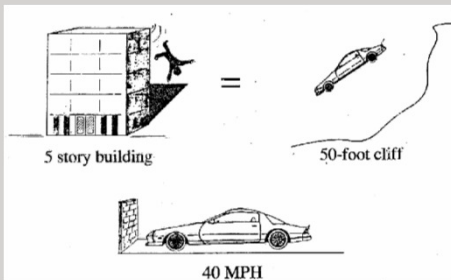
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All of These Impact are Equal



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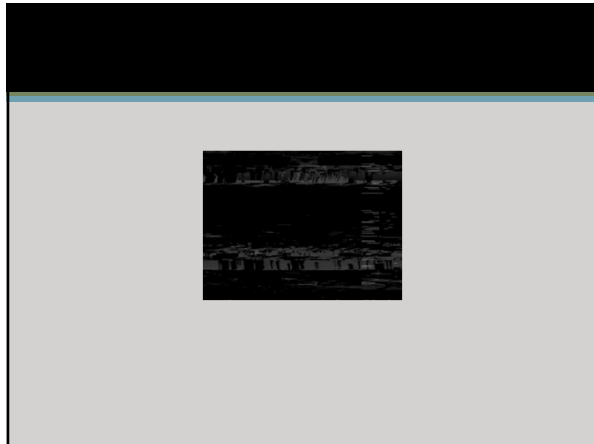
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### Sheriff's Department Collision Statistics

<b>2018 Total Preventable Collisions- 106</b>	<b>Primary Causes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CSB 3</li><li>• DSB 12</li><li>• LESB 79</li><li>• Other 12</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Backing (56%)</li><li>• Unsafe speed (21%)</li><li>• Unsafe turning (12%)</li></ul>

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### Vehicle Inspections

- Pre-operational check should include:
  - General vehicle appearance
  - Tires
  - Wheels
  - Lights
  - Trunk
  - Body damage
  - Instrument panel



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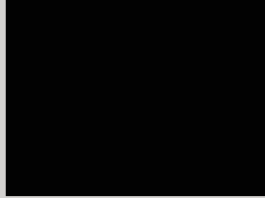
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## Anti-Lock Brake System

- Prevents tire skid
- Calipers pump up to 15 times per second
- Sounds like grinding rocks
- Decreased stopping distance
  - Depending on driving surface
- Remember to steer!



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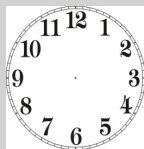
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## Hand Positioning

- Past positioning
  - 10 & 2
  - 9 & 3
- Best practice
  - 8 & 4
- Airbag considerations
  - Deploys at 170mph



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### Shuffle Steering

- Preferred method of steering
- Keeps both hands on the steering wheel
- Caster effect
- Avoids airbag deployment
- Requires practice until proficient



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## Defensive Driving

- The Defensive Driver
  - Maintains a professional attitude
  - Demonstrates good judgment and decision making skills
  - Recognizes hazards
  - Anticipate actions of others
  - Reacts Properly
  - Avoids collisions



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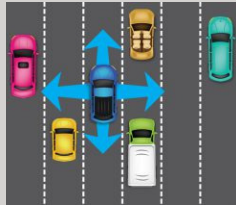
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## Defensive Driving

- Space Cushion
  - 3 second gap
  - Escape route
- Intersection Analysis
  - Start early
  - Identify hazards and prepare
  - Left, front, right, and left



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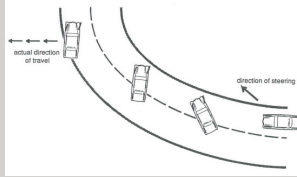
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### Oversteer

- Loss of traction in rear tires
- Caused by:
  - Excessive speed in turn
  - Sudden/excessive steering input
  - Over braking in turn
- Decrease speed prior to turn
- Steer in direction of skid
- Avoid braking while in turn



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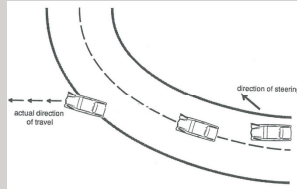
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### Understeer

- Loss of traction in front wheels while turning
- Typically when entering a turn too fast
- Vehicle "plows" in a straight line
- Decrease speed prior to turn



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### Rear-Wheel Cheat

- Present anytime a vehicle turns
- Rear tires track to the inside
- 36" in a Crown Victoria
- Consider busses and long trucks



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### Rear-Wheel Cheat

- Swinging wide
  - Take corner wide
  - Simplest method
  - Difficult in confined spaces (i.e. parking lots)
- Remember vehicle pivot points
  - Not always possible when confined
  - Rear axle is pivot point of vehicle
  - Proceed straight until axle is aligned
  - Guide primarily on driver side



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### Front-End Swing

- Front-end swings to the outside
- 4' of swing in a Crown Victoria
- Vital when in confined space
  - Parking spaces
  - Carports
  - Pillars in parking lots



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### Front-End Swing

- Allow sufficient space
- Vehicle positioning is crucial
- Turn no more than necessary
- Minimizes front-end swing



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**Backing / Parking**

- Visibility
  - Look over shoulder
  - Use mirrors to your advantage
- Pull through the parking space
- After being parked, check behind vehicle
- Have someone assist
- If in doubt STOP



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