



Colorado Springs Police Department

Standard Operating Procedure

DL-1305-02 Hit & Run Crash Investigations

Section 1300 – Traffic Functions

Effective Date: 3/17/2022
Supersedes Date: 7/5/2021

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to prescribe fixed procedures for investigating hit-and-run traffic crashes.

.02 Cross-Reference

[GO 1400 Collection of Physical Evidence](#)
[GO 1305 Traffic Crash Investigations](#)
[DL-1305-01 Fatal or Serious Injury Traffic Crashes](#)

.03 Definitions

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.04 Procedure

Responding officers will complete thorough preliminary and follow up investigations and reports of hit and run traffic crashes not involving Serious Bodily Injuries (SBI) or fatalities.

Actions at the Scene

- Obtain and broadcast a description of the run vehicle, its driver and occupants, as soon as possible.
- Concentrate on witnesses who can identify the driver and vehicle.
- Thoroughly check the scene for any physical evidence. Make note in the report of all evidence found and turned in to the Evidence Unit.
- Conduct a neighborhood check for additional witnesses and information.

- Obtain home and work telephone numbers of victims, witnesses, suspects (i.e. anyone involved in the investigation).

Determinations Concerning Witnesses

Location

- Where was the witness in relation to the point of impact?
- Could the witness have seen what took place?

Observation

- What, and where, was the first thing connected with the crash observed by the witness?
- Were there any unusual actions on the part of those involved?

Identification

- Can the witness identify the parties in the crash?
- Did the witness overhear any conversation, or engage in conversation, with any of the parties?

Follow up

- If a suspect address is developed, attempt contact at that address. Obtain and document any information received.
- Attempt contact with neighbors of the suspect. Obtain and document any information received.
- Complete the Impound Card/EvidenceOnQ entry advising the reason the vehicle was impounded and for any hold placed. Run listings on all hit-and-run suspect vehicles.
- Attempt to contact the owner of the vehicle by driving to the registered address, if in the city limits, and check for the vehicle and/or suspects. Document efforts to contact suspect and vehicle in the crash report and turn in the report prior to going off shift.
- If the vehicle registers outside the city limits a teletype may be sent to the agency where the vehicle is registered to have another law enforcement agency check the address.
- A QQ (Query Query) should also be done on the suspect vehicle so the investigating officer can contact whoever recently queried the vehicle to determine the circumstances.
- All Hit and Run traffic crash investigations not involving SBI and/or fatalities will be conducted by the responding officers.

- If the parameters of a Major Crash Team (MCT) response are suspected to be met, secure the scene until SBI/fatalities are confirmed or ruled out. If confirmed, contact MCT, if ruled out, continue the investigation.

Medina Alert System

The Medina Alert System is designed to broadcast critical information pertaining to a suspect vehicle and driver associated with a hit and run traffic crash involving death or serious bodily injury using the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

As with an Amber Alert, it is critical that the suspect and vehicle information are broadcast as soon as possible after the traffic crash.

Officers should notify the responding supervisor when the following criteria are met and consider issuing a Medina Alert:

- The crash is a hit and run, as defined under C.R.S. § 42-4-1601
- The crash involves serious bodily injury or death
- The available run vehicle description includes
 - A complete license number or
 - A partial plate and the vehicle make, color, and style
 - A description of the driver or
 - The suspect's identity is known

For example, a hit and run involving serious bodily injury or death with a complete license plate number is sufficient to initiate a Medina Alert.

The patrol supervisor will notify the duty lieutenant that the criteria for a Medina Alert has been met. The duty lieutenant will notify the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (**Number REDACTED**). The Colorado Springs Traffic Operations Center should be notified as there are messaging boards that are not on the state system.

The Public Information Office will be notified of the alert to coordinate media inquiries.

The Major Crash Team will coordinate the cancellation of the Medina Alert.