


Fort Collins Police Services Policy Manual

 FORT COLLINS POLICE	POLICY	503
	TITLE	Collision Reconstruction and Scene Handling Team (CRASH)

503.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Fort Collins Police Services maintains a special team of highly trained officers to investigate and reconstruct serious injury and fatal traffic accidents.

503.2 PERSONNEL

The Traffic Unit supervisor, upon approval by the Patrol Division Assistant Chief, shall select and maintain police officers and CSOs as members of the CRASH Team for technical accident investigations and reconstructions.

Officers interested in serving on the CRASH team must demonstrate a working knowledge of advanced traffic accident investigation techniques prior to being selected for the team or attend advanced training as soon as practical upon selection. Some members of the CRASH Team may be selected solely for the purpose of traffic control and equipment movement and maintenance. These officers will not be required to attend advanced investigative training.

503.3 DUTIES

- (a) Collecting on-scene and off-scene evidence and data related to traffic accidents.
- (b) Obtaining and recording formal statements and information from involved parties and witnesses.
- (c) Conducting detailed examinations of the evidentiary elements present in traffic accidents.
- (d) Reconstructing traffic accidents.
- (e) Preparing formal reports to support findings for criminal prosecution.
- (f) Filing criminal charges when appropriate.
- (g) Providing assistance to other agencies when approved by the Chief of Police or his designate.
- (h) Conducting research and collecting data for traffic accident reconstruction activities or other applications as approved by the Traffic Unit supervisor.
- (i) Provide training in crash investigations.

503.4 RESPONSE

- (a) CRASH Team members should be called upon to assist with those traffic accidents in which their expertise will enhance the investigation results.
- (b) A request for the CRASH Team to respond to a traffic accident scene must be approved by an on-duty supervisor.
- (c) Examples of accidents for which the CRASH Team should be used are as follows:
 1. All traffic accidents involving a fatality or serious bodily injuries which appear likely to result in death.
 2. All accidents involving trains when substantial damage is present.

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3. All traffic accidents involving City vehicles where serious bodily injury or fatality may be anticipated.
4. Complex traffic accidents (e.g. multiple cars, unusual circumstances, roll-overs, etc.) requiring greater technical expertise.
5. Any other accidents which, in the opinion of a field supervisor, warrant the technical expertise and assistance of the CRASH Team.

503.5 RECALL PROCEDURE

Upon receipt of supervisory approval, Dispatch shall contact the entire CRASH Team via departmentally approved paging system using assigned cell phones.

Per Policy 702 – Personal Communication Devices, CRASH Team members are required to carry their cell phones and be available for contact. They must respond to contact by phone or police radio upon being called or paged.

503.6 FILING OF REPORTS

The lead investigator shall file the appropriate Colorado Traffic Accident Report form(s) with Records at the end of their tour of duty unless a supervisor authorizes otherwise per Policy 344 – Report Preparation.

The traffic accident investigation shall be completed in a timely manner and the appropriate reports filed with records.