


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 Special Operations 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 their designee.
 - 1. Minor requests for investigative assistance may be approved by the Traffic Unit Sergeant or Special Operations Lieutenant.
- (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 and the Traffic Unit supervisor, or their designee.
- (c) Examples of accidents for which the CRASH Team may be used are as follows:

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1. All traffic accidents involving a fatality or serious bodily injuries which appear likely to result in death.
2. All accidents involving trains resulting in fatality or serious bodily injury.
3. Accidents involving a significant train derailment and substantial property damage.
4. All traffic accidents involving City vehicles where serious bodily injury or fatality are anticipated.
5. All traffic accidents involving an emergency vehicle with its emergency lights and/or siren activated.
6. Any other accidents which, in the opinion of an on-duty supervisor and the Traffic Unit supervisor, or their designee, require the technical expertise and assistance of the CRASH Team.
7. CRASH should be consulted by the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) Team Commander, or their designee, if necessary for any CIRT call-out which includes a traffic accident as a component of the CIRT investigation.

503.5 RECALL PROCEDURE

- (a) The recall procedure for the CRASH Team and the responsibilities of officers, supervisors, and Dispatch include the following steps:
 - (1) An on-duty supervisor will evaluate the circumstances of the accident and determine if CRASH should be consulted.
 - (2) Upon determining that a CRASH consult is needed, the on-duty supervisor, or their designee, will contact Dispatch and request the CRASH Team Consult Group be sent a page.
 - (3) A member of the CRASH Team Consult Group will contact Dispatch to acknowledge the page, then contact the on-duty supervisor, or their designee, to complete the CRASH Team consult. Information will be gathered at this time to determine if a CRASH Team deployment is necessary.
 - (4) If a CRASH Team deployment is determined to be necessary, Dispatch will be notified by a member of the CRASH Team Consult Group to send a page to the CRASH Team.
 - (5) Dispatch will send a page, via departmentally approved paging system, to the CRASH Team.
- (b) 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 the identified point of contact by phone or police radio upon being called or paged.

503.6 FILING OF REPORTS

An investigator assigned to the CRASH Team shall file the appropriate Colorado Traffic Accident Report form(s) with Records.

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