



Chapter: Traffic Enforcement and Crash Investigation
Subject: 06-26 – Crash Reconstruction Program
Effective: March 14, 2024
Supersedes: Official Order 06-26, dated April 19, 2022
Distribution: Department Members

PURPOSE: This Order establishes department policy related to the duties and responsibilities of the traffic crash reconstruction specialist. The Order also provides guidelines for using the services of these investigators.

06-26-1 DEFINITIONS

A. At-Scene Traffic Crash Investigator

Enlisted members of the department who have received the department sponsored at-scene or advanced traffic crash investigation courses following recruit school.

B. Technical Traffic Crash Investigator

Investigators who have received the department sponsored technical traffic crash investigation training provided by the department or by a training facility approved by the Field Operations Bureau (Special Operations Division). This training is provided to investigators only after they have received at-scene training.

C. Traffic Crash Reconstruction Specialist

Investigators who:

- (1) Have received traffic crash reconstruction training provided by the department or by a training facility approved by the Field Operations Bureau (Special Operations Division).
- (2) Are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Traffic Accident Reconstruction (ACTAR) or are in their two-year training mode.
- (3) Are authorized by the Field Operations Bureau (Special Operations Division) to conduct traffic crash reconstruction investigations.

06-26-2 USE OF AT-SCENE AND TECHNICAL TRAFFIC CRASH INVESTIGATORS

- A. Post at-scene and district technical traffic crash investigators shall be used whenever necessary to provide a complete and thorough motor vehicle traffic crash investigation.
- B. At the district level, the primary use of the technical traffic crash investigator is to assist the district traffic crash reconstruction specialist. These members may be used in update

training of district at-scene traffic crash investigators, traffic crash investigation training at recruit schools, and assisting the district traffic crash reconstruction specialist with crash investigations. These members are not traffic crash reconstruction specialists and are not to be presented as such. Districts are encouraged to use these members in the prescribed manner to keep them proficient and provide continued on-the-job training. At the post level, these members are encouraged to assist post at-scene traffic crash investigators or local departments within their respective post areas with crash investigations.

- C. In any investigation that involves the use of conservation of linear momentum or a time-distance analysis, the district traffic crash reconstruction specialist shall review the investigation before the final report is submitted to ensure proper application of the applied theories and techniques.

06-26-3 USE OF TRAFFIC CRASH RECONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST

- A. As soon as possible, a traffic crash reconstruction specialist shall be dispatched to the scene of any traffic crash involving an on-duty member or department vehicle that results in a fatality or the potential hospitalization of any person. Hospitalization is defined as any injury, other than fatal, that requires admittance to the hospital.
- B. A traffic crash reconstruction specialist shall be assigned to the following types of crashes:
 - (1) Fatal crashes that involve a probability of civil infraction causing death, circuit court misdemeanor, or felony criminal prosecution.
 - (2) "Type A" injury crashes where there is a high probability of death and involve a probability of civil infraction causing death, circuit court misdemeanor or felony criminal prosecution.
 - (3) Fatal or "Type A" injury crashes involving large trucks, common carriers, hazardous material carriers, or school buses.
 - (4) Fatal or "Type A" injury crashes that involve a department pursuit.

06-26-4 REQUESTS FOR TRAFFIC CRASH RECONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST

- A. Activation of a district traffic crash reconstruction specialist shall be requested through the district crash reconstruction specialist, unit commander, and/or district commander or designee where the traffic crash occurred.
- B. If a district traffic crash reconstruction specialist is unavailable, the district needing the investigator shall contact the Operations Unit. Operations shall coordinate assignment of a traffic crash reconstruction specialist from an adjoining district.
 - (1) If a traffic crash reconstruction specialist from an adjoining district is not available to respond, the Operations Unit, in conjunction with the Traffic Crash Reconstruction Unit commander, may assign a district technical or at-scene traffic crash investigator from the district where the crash occurred.
 - (2) The responding technical or at-scene traffic crash investigator shall contact the affected district traffic crash reconstruction specialist as soon as possible so that the investigation is coordinated.
- C. Assistance, guidance, or instruction rendered by the traffic crash reconstruction specialist to at-scene and technical traffic crash investigators as a means of enhancing their level of competence shall be considered. Such services may include informal telephone discussions, responses by letter inquiry, informal contact, etc.

- D. Traffic crash reconstruction specialists are a valuable training resource, and district commanders are encouraged to use their expertise to the fullest extent possible. Traffic crash reconstruction specialists may be assigned to develop, conduct, or coordinate traffic crash investigations and other related training programs.

06-26-5 EQUIPMENT

- A. Traffic crash reconstruction specialists shall keep issued equipment in proper operating condition at all times.
- B. Issued equipment is assigned to the individual traffic crash reconstruction specialist.
- C. Traffic crash reconstruction equipment shall only be used to collect data from either traffic crash or crime scenes and the reconstruction of traffic crashes. Use of this equipment is restricted to the traffic crash reconstruction specialist unless authorized by the member to whom the equipment is assigned.

06-26-6 TRAFFIC CRASH RECONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST TRANSFER

When a traffic crash reconstruction specialist is transferred, the need for a traffic crash reconstruction specialist at the new work location shall be evaluated by the Special Operations Division commander in conjunction with the Field Operations Bureau. If it is determined the services of a traffic crash reconstruction specialist are not required at the new location, the member shall no longer be authorized to perform traffic crash reconstruction activity.

06-26-7 REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY

The Traffic Crash Reconstruction Unit commander, in conjunction with district commanders or designees, shall be responsible for both administrative and operational control of all traffic crash reconstruction activity within the districts.

DIRECTOR

Annual Review Responsibility: Special Operations Division

Accreditation Standards: CALEA 61.2.1