DATE: **MAY 3, 2013**

FROM: **ROBERT W. SHILLING**
DEPUTYSECRETARY/OPERATIONS

TO: **DPS COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL**
DPS COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: **DIRECTIVE – RESPONSE TO C.M.V. CRASHES**

To improve upon the State of New Mexico's enforcement of provisions of the Motor Transportation Act and Motor Carrier Act, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, MTPD will be the preferred agency to respond to and conduct crash investigations involving commercial vehicles on state highways for DPS. To ensure proper traffic accident management involving commercial vehicles the following directive will be adhered to:

1.   Communications will determine the closest available DPS Unit as the initial responder. Initial response will be based on availability and response time to the accident location.

2.   First responding officers will be prepared to administer emergency services, to preserve the scene, to investigate the crash, to record and collect evidence including basic federally reportable data, over-see the removal of any roadway debris resulting from the crash, and to restore the normal flow of traffic. Upon arriving at a crash scene, one of the primary responsibilities of an officer is to protect the scene and prevent the crash from worsening.

3.   In the event that MTPD is not the initial responder, Communications will determine availability of a MTPD Unit for response. If a MTPD unit is within a 30 minute response time, MTPD will be dispatched. Upon arrival MTPD will become the lead investigating division and will relieve State Police at the earliest opportunity. NMSP will remain on scene to assist in the investigation.

4.   In the event of a commercial vehicle accident involving great bodily injury or death, release of HazMat, or road closure the MTPD District Lieutenant will be notified via department issued cellular telephone to determine MTPD call-out of off-duty resources.

5.   In all cases, the MTPD District Captain will receive a CAD copy of all CMV crash incidents by email.

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