

**San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office – Presenter 2440**  
**Driving(PSP) – Course 29502**  
***Expanded Course Outline***  
**4-HOUR TRAINING**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

This course will provide trainees with the minimum topics of Driver Training/Awareness required in the POST Perishable Skills Training Program including: Vehicle Dynamics, Legal and Moral Aspects, Defensive Driving, and Behind the Wheel Course Exercises. The course consists of lecture and hands-on/practical Driver Training/Awareness for in-service personnel.

**MINIMUM TOPICS/EXERCISES:**

- a. Safety Policy/Orientation
- b. Policy, Legal and Moral Aspects
- c. Vehicle Dynamics
- d. Defensive Driving
- e. Intersections Exercise(s)
- f. Backing/Parking Exercise(s)
- g. Behind the Wheel Exercises to Improve Driving Skills – Judgment and Decision Making
- h. Class Exercises, Student Evaluation, and/or Optional Testing

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The trainee will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of Driver Training/Awareness skills and techniques
2. Demonstrate a minimum standard of psychomotor skills with every technique and exercise to include:
  - A. Judgment and Decision Making
  - B. Policy, Legal and Moral Aspects
  - C. Basic Driving Principles and Vehicle Dynamics
  - D. Defensive Driving

**Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique and exercise. If the trainee does not meet minimum standards, as established by the presenter, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.**

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**4-HOUR TRAINING**

**I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION/SAFETY POLICY (a)**

- A. Introduction and Orientation
  - 1. Course Roster
  - 2. Facility Overview
- B. Course Objectives/Overview/Exercises and Evaluation
  - 1. Judgment and Decision Making
  - 2. Policy, Legal and Moral Issues
  - 3. Basic Driving Principles and Vehicle Dynamics
  - 4. Defensive Driving
- C. Safety Policy
- D. Below 100
  - 1. Overview of Campaign
  - 2. Tenets
    - a) Wear Your Belt
    - b) Wear Your Vest
    - c) Watch your Speed
    - d) What's Important Now (WIN)
    - e) Complacency Kills

**II. POLICY, LEGAL AND MORAL ASPECTS (b)**

- A. Moral Aspects/Ethics
  - 1. Risk v Reward
  - 2. Letter of the law v Spirit of the law
- B. Legal Update
  - 1. 21052 CVC
    - a) Routine driving (Non code-3)
    - b) Obey all "rules of the road"
  - 2. PC 835a
    - a) Define Deadly Force, per Sheriff's Office Policy 300
    - b) Review PC 835a and discuss how it applies to driving
    - c) Discuss Totality of the Circumstances – it means all facts known to the peace officer at the time, including the conduct of the officer and the subject leading up to the use of deadly force.
  - 3. 17004.7 CVC
    - a) Absolute immunity to an agency from civil damages from a collision involving the suspect vehicle IF they adopt a written policy on pursuits that provides for:
      - (1) Supervisory control
      - (2) Procedure for designating the primary vehicle and the number of vehicles permitted in the pursuit at one time
      - (3) Operation of emergency equipment
      - (4) Coordination with other jurisdictions

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- (5) Guidelines for when to pursue and when to terminate a pursuit based on the best interest of public safety and law enforcement
- 4. 17004 CVC
  - a) An officer's law enforcement agency is... immune from liability for civil damages for personnel injury or death or property damage resulting from a collision of a vehicle operated by an actual or suspected law violator.
- 5. 17001 CVC
- 6. 21055 CVC
  - a) Provides exemption from "rules of the road"
  - b) Proper lighting
  - c) Proper audio signal (siren)
  - d) Conditions that allow for a code-3 response
- 7. 21056 CVC
  - a) Section 21055 does not relieve the driver of a vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway, nor protect him from the consequences of an arbitrary exercise of privileges granted in that section
  - b) What is failure to exercise due regard?
    - (1) Violation of a statute, ordinance, or regulation
    - (2) The violation caused death or injury to a person or property
- 8. 21806 CVC
- 9. 21807 CVC
  - a) Definition of "due regard"
- C. Agency policy
  - 1. Emergency Response Policy
  - 2. Pursuit Policy

**III. VEHICLE DYNAMICS**

**(c)**

- A. Weight Transfer
  - 1. Weight distributed between front and rear wheels
  - 2. Types of weight transfer
    - a) Lateral: Side to side
    - b) Longitudinal: Front to rear/Rear to front
  - 3. Lateral transfer created when vehicle turned left/right
  - 4. Longitudinal transfer created when:
    - a) Braking - Rear to front
    - b) Accelerating - Front to rear
    - c) Decelerating (lifting off accelerator)- Rear to front
  - 5. Can't be completely eliminated in a moving vehicle
  - 6. Minimized by good driving techniques and smooth operation

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7. Spring Loading
    - a) Occurs when the energy builds in a vehicle when a vehicle experiences weight transfer
  8. Steering input
    - a) The amount of steering required for the degree of turning radius desired depends on the speed of the vehicle
  9. Centrifugal Force
    - a) As the steering wheel turns, centrifugal force pushes on the vehicle's center of gravity
    - b) If the centrifugal force is greater than the force the tires can accept, it can cause a loss of traction, resulting in loss of control.
  10. Oversteer
  11. Understeer
  12. Electronic Stability Control
  13. Front End Swing
    - a) When backing, the steering is reversed; the front axle now becomes the pivot point of any turn
    - b) The front end will swing out as much as four (4) feet.
  14. Rear Wheel Cheat
    - a) During a turn, the rear tires track along a different path than that of the front tires
- B. Steering Control
1. Seating position
    - a) Driver comfort
    - b) Efficient vehicle control
    - c) Wrist break over top of steering wheel
    - d) Seated approximately 12" from air bag
    - e) Adjust mirrors
  2. Steering method – Two hand shuffle steering
    - a) Balanced hand positions per agency
    - b) Hands do not leave steering wheel
    - c) Maximizes steering accuracy
    - d) Safer and more effective recovery
    - e) Minimizes weight transfer
    - f) Minimizes air bag deployment injury (9 and 3, 8 and 4)
  3. Steering method – Backing (f)
    - a) Body rotated to right
    - b) Right hand placed on right headrest
    - c) Vision directed over right shoulder
    - d) Left hand on steering wheel at 12 o'clock position
    - e) Left foot braced on floorboard
  4. Steering Method – Backing Utilizing Mirrors Only
    - a) Body in normal driving position

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**4-HOUR TRAINING**

- b) Check left and right mirrors (if possible, check rear view mirror)
- c) Check to ensure backup camera video and/or sensors are engaged (if applicable)
- C. Roadway Position
  - 1. Definition: The position of the vehicle on the roadway that maximizes speed with minimum steering and risk of loss of vehicle control while negotiating a turn
  - 2. AKA – Driving line
  - 3. Driving points in a turn
    - a) Entry (Point #1)
    - b) Apex (Point #2)
      - (1) Early
      - (2) Traditional
      - (3) Late
    - c) Exit (Point #3)
  - 4. Driving Advantages
    - a) Minimize and control weight transfer
    - b) Minimize steering input
    - c) Smoother vehicle operation
    - d) Maximum speed through turns in the safest manner

**IV. DEFENSIVE DRIVING**

**(d)**

- A. Defensive Drivers
  - 1. Avoid collisions regardless of right-of-way
  - 2. React properly to hazards
  - 3. Maintain a professional attitude
- B. Defensive Driving/Collision Avoidance
  - 1. Maintain a high visual horizon
  - 2. Maintain a safe space cushion
  - 3. Anticipate others' actions
  - 4. Look through turns before entry
  - 5. Consider steering to the rear of the conflict vehicle
  - 6. Drive around the problem
- C. Maintain Space Cushion
  - 1. Three second rule
  - 2. Perception / Reaction time
  - 3. When stopped, see rear wheels of vehicle directly in front
- D. Primary Components of Defensive Driving
  - 1. The driver
    - a) Psychological
    - b) Physiological
  - 2. The vehicle

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**4-HOUR TRAINING**

- 3. The driving conditions
- E. Factors that Can Impact the Driver
  - 1. Dangerous Driver Attitudes
    - a) Overconfidence
    - b) Self-righteousness
    - c) Impatience
    - d) Preoccupation
    - e) Distracted driving/Multi-tasking
    - f) Complacency
  - 2. Driver's Condition
    - a) Fatigue
    - b) Stress
    - c) Illness
    - d) Alcohol and Drugs
  - 3. Driver's Skill
    - a) Psychomotor Skills
    - b) Understanding of physical forces acting upon a vehicle
    - c) Level of driver's knowledge and experience
- F. Factors that Impact Driving Conditions
  - 1. Road conditions
  - 2. Weather conditions
  - 3. Traffic conditions
  - 4. Daytime vs nighttime driving
  - 5. Distractions
- G. Factors that Impact the Vehicle
  - 1. Capability and condition
    - a) Level of care provided by driver
    - b) Mistreatment of vehicle
    - c) Individual characteristics of vehicle
  - 2. Pre-use Inspection
    - a) Tire pressure
    - b) Vehicle attitude
- H. Intersections (e)
  - 1. Clear left, right, then left again
  - 2. Cover brake on stale green
  - 3. Don't turn wheels until ready for turn
  - 4. Look through turns
- I. The 3 Second Rule
- J. Driver Distractions
  - 1. Cell phones
  - 2. Computers in patrol cars
  - 3. Use of radios
- K. High Visual Horizon Decision Making
- L. Improper Steering vs. Correct Shuffle Steering

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**4-HOUR TRAINING**

- M. Cornering
  - 1. Road Position
- N. Freeway Driving
- O. Backing (f)
  - 1. Large percentage of collisions involving LE vehicles
  - 2. Use proper backing techniques
  - 3. Use of or backup cameras
- P. Lane changes
  - 1. Signal
  - 2. Check mirrors
  - 3. Blind spots
    - a) Clear blind spots by looking over shoulders
- Q. Occupant Safety Devices
  - 1. Safety belts
  - 2. Supplemental Restraint System (air bags)
- R. Vehicle vs. Duty Weapon
  - 1. Vehicle out of control is just as deadly as duty weapon

**V. BEHIND THE WHEEL EXERCISES & STUDENT EVALUATION (g, h)**

- A. Offset Lane Exercise (Forward and Reverse)
  - 1. Roadway positioning (eye Placement and steering input)
  - 2. Appropriate throttle control and brake application
  - 3. Conscious of rear wheel cheat and front end swing
  - 4. Usage of pivot point (Reverse direction)
  - 5. Appropriate usage of mirror (reverse direction)
- B. "T" Driveway
  - 1. Appropriate lane placement
  - 2. Appropriate adjustments for rear wheel cheat
- C. Serpentine
  - 1. Setup/Knowledge of pivot point location
  - 2. Appropriate usage of mirrors
  - 3. Steering input and throttle control needed to accomplish goal
  - 4. Control of rear wheel cheat and front-end swing
- D. Parallel Parking
  - 1. Appropriate setup
  - 2. Finish within 18" of curb
- E. Additional Maneuvering Exercises as determined by Instructor
  - 1. Refer to Driver Awareness Instructor Manual
- F. Evaluation & Remediation
  - 1. Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique and exercise. If the trainee does not meet minimum standards, as established by the presenter, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.