

**POST PERISHABLE SKILLS PROGRAM (PSP)  
II – Driver Training / Awareness**

**MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (6730)**

CCN: 6730-21155-21 | POST Certification II | Reimbursement Plan IV | 8 hours

**COURSE GOAL:**

The course will provide the trainee with the minimum topics of Driver Training/Awareness required in the POST Perishable Skills Training Program including: Basic Driving Principles, Legal and Moral Aspects, Defensive Driving and Maneuvering Course Exercises.

The course consists of a hands-on/practical Driver Training/Awareness for in-service officers. **The training maybe presented in 4, or 8 hour format allowing for flexibility based upon specific agency or trainee group needs, and as long as the minimum topics are contained within each format independently.**

**DRIVER TRAINING/AWARENESS**

**Minimum Topics/Exercises:**

- a. Safety Policy/Orientation
- b. Policy, legal and moral issues
- 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 their 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 Issues
  - C. Basic Driving Principles and Vehicle Dynamics
  - D. Defensive Driving

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**EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE**

- I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION **II (a)**
  - A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation
    - 1. Course Roster
    - 2. Facility Overview
  - B. Course Objectives/Overview/Exercises, Evaluation/Testing
    - 1. Course Objectives
      - a. Judgment and Decision Making
      - b. Policy, Legal and Moral Issues
      - c. Basic Driving Principles and Vehicle Dynamics
      - d. Defensive Driving
    - 2. Safety Policy/Orientation
  
- II. LEGAL AND MORAL ASPECTS **II (b)**
  - A. California codes
    - 1. Vehicle Codes
    - 2. Penal Codes
  - B. Case law
    - 1. Brower v. Inyo (1989)
    - 2. Lewis v. Sacramento Co (1998)
    - 3. Cruz v. Briseno (2000)
    - 4. Nguyen v City of Westminster (2002)
    - 5. Scott v. Harris (2007)
    - 6. Additional case law as determined by instructor
  - C. Agency policy
    - 1. Lexipol Update
    - 2. General Orders
  - D. Moral aspects
    - 1. Risk v Reward
    - 2. Letter of the law v Spirit of the law
  
- III. VEHICLE CARE AND MAINTENANCE **II (c)**

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- A. Pre-shift Vehicle Inspection Interior
  - 1. General appearance
  - 2. Lights
    - a. OEM
    - b. Emergency
  - 3. Trunk
    - a. Spare tire
    - b. Fire extinguisher
    - c. Jack / Lug wrench
    - d. Flares
    - e. First aid kit
    - f. Stop Sticks
  - 4. Interior
    - a. Trash / Debris
    - b. Clean windows
    - c. Adjust seat and mirrors
    - d. Check gauges
    - e. Brakes
    - f. Secure gear
    - g. Seatbelts
  - 5. Listen for unusual sounds
- B. Pre-shift Vehicle Inspection Exterior
  - 1. General appearance
  - 2. Lights
  - 3. Tires
    - a. Pressure
    - b. Wear
    - c. Damage
  - 4. Wheels
  - 5. Body damage

**IV. BASIC DRIVING PRINCIPLES**

**II (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

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- 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
  - B. Steering Control
    - 1. Seating position
      - a. Driver comfort
      - b. Efficient vehicle control
      - c. Wrist break over top of steering wheel
      - d. Adjust mirrors
    - 2. Steering method – Two hand shuffle steering
      - a. Balanced hand positions
      - 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
      - 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
      - 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
      - a. AKA – Driving line
      - b. Driving points for a turn
        - 1. Entry (Point #1)
        - 2. Apex (Point #2)
        - 3. Exit (Point #3)
    - 2. Driving Advantages
      - a. Minimize and control weight transfer
      - b. Minimize steering input

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- c. Smoother vehicle operation
- d. Maximum speed through turns in the safest manner

**V. DEFENSIVE DRIVING II (d)**

- A. Defensive Drivers
  - 1. Avoid collisions regardless of right-of-way
  - 2. React properly to hazards
  - 3. Maintain a professional attitude
- B. Dangerous Driver Attitudes
  - 1. Overconfidence
  - 2. Self-righteousness
  - 3. Impatience
  - 4. Preoccupation
  - 5. Distracted driving/Multi-tasking
- C. Collision Avoidance
  - 1. Space cushion
    - a. Perception
    - b. Reaction time
    - c. Speed
    - d. Vehicle specifications / weight
  - 2. Intersections II (e)
    - a. Clear left, right, then left again
    - b. Cover brake on stale green
    - c. Don't turn wheels until ready for turn
    - d. Look through turns
  - 3. Maintain high visual horizon
  - 4. Consider steering to the rear of a conflict vehicle
  - 5. Backing
    - a. Large percentage of collisions involving LE vehicles
    - b. Use proper backing techniques
    - c. Use of backup cameras
  - 6. Lane changes
    - a. Signal
    - b. Check mirrors
    - c. Blind spots
    - d. Optional back up camera
  - 7. Blind spots
    - a. Clear blind spots by looking over shoulders
    - b. Use of mirrors
    - c. Optional backup cameras

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- 8. Accident Mitigation Systems
  - a. Lexipol
  - b. Manufacture advisements
- D. Occupant Safety Devices
  - 1. Safety belts
  - 2. Supplemental Restraint System (air bags)
- E. Vehicle Dynamics II (c)
  - 1. Rear wheel cheat
  - 2. Front-end swing
  - 3. Oversteer
  - 4. Understeer
  - 5. Counter-steer
  
- V. MANEUVERING COURSE EXERCISES II (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. Turn-Around Maneuver Exercise
    - 1. Student will demonstrate three-point turnaround, bootleg, and modified bootleg
    - 2. Maintain constant visual awareness of objects to the rear and sides until vehicle comes to a stop
    - 3. Demonstrate reverse steering (pivot point and front-end swing)
  - C. Slalom course Exercise
    - 1. Demonstrate proper application of forward and reverse methods of steering
    - 2. Coordination of steering and throttle control to minimize weight transfer during turning movements
    - 3. Maneuver around obstacles without striking them
  - D. "T" Driveway
    - 1. Appropriate lane placement
    - 2. Appropriate adjustments for rear wheel cheat
  - E. Parallel Parking Exercise
    - 1. Appropriate setup
    - 2. Finish within 18" of the curb
    - 3. Control of rear wheel cheat and front-end swing

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VI. TESTING/REMEDICATION

**II (h)**

***Testing: Any student scoring below standard on any exercise, as established by the presenter, will be remediated, and tested until competency is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the presenter.***

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***EXTENDING EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE TO 8 HOURS***

- VII. BASIC DRIVING PRINCIPLES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE **II (g)**
- A. Throttle Control
    - 1. Full throttle is total depression of accelerator pedal
    - 2. Maximum acceleration is accelerating as quickly as possible to full throttle without losing traction
    - 3. Increased throttle will widen the arc of the driving line in a turn, and will increase weight transfer
    - 4. Decrease of throttle will tighten the arc of the driving line in a turn
  - B. Speed Judgement
    - 1. Ability of a driver to estimate a safe speed for any given situation
    - 2. Considerations
      - a. Road conditions
      - b. Type of driving maneuvers
      - c. Driver ability
      - d. Vehicle ability
      - e. Weather conditions
    - 3. Closure rate
  - C. Brake Application
    - 1. Normal
    - 2. Panic
    - 3. ABS
    - 4. Threshold (does not apply to vehicles equipped with ABS)
      - a. 0-10 scale
      - b. More “cooling” time
      - c. Allows speed for longer distance before brake application
      - d. Steering always available
- VIII. VEHICLE OPERATION FACTORS **II (d, g)**
- A. Operational Tactics and Considerations
    - 1. Radio
      - a. Distracted Driving
      - b. Broadcast while driving in a straight line
      - c. Stay calm and speak clearly
      - d. Lapel mic, optional
    - 2. Use of MDT/Computer



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- a. Consistent with agency policy, ensure monitoring and utilization of MDT and other displays does not create a hazard
  - b. Use radio for communications of immediate nature
  - c. Collisions while operating the MDT/Computer will usually be found to be preventable
- B. Blocking Access to Intersections
- 1. Officer Safety
  - 2. In pursuit, park off to side and get out of the way
  - 3. No guarantee of safety
- C. Blocking Roadway
- 1. Position vehicle appropriately
  - 2. Lighting
  - 3. Trunk
  - 4. Stand away from rear of vehicle
  - 5. Face traffic when walking

**IX. OPTIONAL EXERCISES**

- A. Collision Avoidance Exercise
- 1. Traffic light required
  - 2. High Visual Horizon
- B. Skid Control Exercise
- 1. Oversteer
  - 2. Understeer
- C. Emergency Response Driving
- 1. Clearing Intersections
  - 2. Spacing between vehicles
  - 3. Speed appropriate for conditions
  - 4. Smooth brake application
  - 5. Smooth steering control
  - 6. Appropriate driving lines
  - 7. Dealing with interference car
- D. Pursuit Driving
- 1. Clearing intersections
  - 2. Spacing between vehicles
  - 3. Speed appropriate for conditions
  - 4. Smooth brake application
  - 5. Smooth steering control

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- 6. Appropriate driving lines
- 7. Dealing with interference cars
- E. Intervention Techniques/Risk Assessment (Pursuit Intervention Technique or PIT Maneuver)
  - 1. Policy considerations
  - 2. Appropriate speed
  - 3. Placement of patrol vehicle to achieve intended result
  - 4. Steering input and throttle control
- F. Additional Exercises as Determined by Instructor
  - 1. Refer to Driver Awareness Instructor Manual
  - 2. Refer to Emergency Vehicle Operations Manual
- X. TESTING/REMEDICATION

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