

Law Enforcement Driver Training Reference Guide

The competence of a law enforcement officer as a driver has been challenged on the basis of documented factors. Either no training was provided, or the training was inadequate in some way: the training for the physical performance of a task was restricted to classroom lectures; the training did not address the causes of the collision at hand, and so forth. In defense, training administrators, at times, have been unable to provide documentation to establish the validity of the driver training provided, nor could they show common training standards across similar agencies to give face validity to the training. Instructors called to testify have sometimes not been able to justify the training on a rational basis.

These factors prompted the formation of a committee of members of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST) to address these issues. IADLEST members have committed staff time, money, and administrative resources to the project to revise the "Guide." The Review Committees were made up of a geographic representation of the Association membership, as well as other stakeholder organizations, to include representation from NHTSA.

Chapter 1 - Establishing a Driver Training Process. This chapter describes a four step process resulting in a comprehensive driving program and provides a summary of where the information required for the four step process can be found in the guide.

Chapter 2 - Management of Emergency Vehicle Operational Risks. This chapter discusses risk management for emergency, non-emergency and pursuit driving. Its purpose is to provide insight into the various legal theories which may come into play in any law enforcement driving situation.

Chapter 3 - Emergency Vehicle Driving and Policy. This chapter discusses the IACP pursuit policy and considerations as well as factors involved in developing a driving policy and how it relates to driver training.

Chapter 4 - Instructor Qualifications. This chapter identifies the knowledge, skills, and abilities for a driver training instructor as well as basic duties and responsibilities of key personnel assigned to a driver program.

Chapter 5 - Facilities and Staffing. This chapter discusses general concepts and considerations that should be taken into account when developing a driver training facility. Provided are details regarding temporary and dedicated facilities, staffing, basic equipment, and range safety rules.

Chapter 6 - Emergency Vehicle Driving Curriculum Guidelines. This chapter provides law enforcement agencies and standards-setting organizations with suggestions for designing a law enforcement driver training curriculum that meets their respective state or local needs.

Module 1 - Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement Driving

Module 2 - Non-Emergency Driving

Module 3 - Emergency Response Driving

Module 4 - Pursuit Driving

Chapter 7 - Testing and Performance Evaluation. This chapter provides law enforcement standard-setting and operational organizations with information to assist in the development of standardized individual assessments of operation proficiency levels. The material in this chapter can help in evaluating both knowledge and skill acquisition.

Chapter 8 - Validating a Driver Training Program. This chapter is directed toward the development of methods and processes for evaluating driver proficiency.