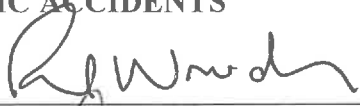
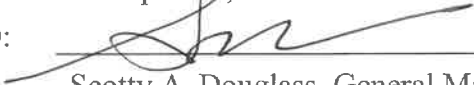




**COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS
LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY**

Policy No. 4760	Date Issued: June 1, 1996
Section: 4700 – Specific Procedures	Date Revised: February 8, 2010
Accreditation Standards: CALEA 2.3.2, 6.3.2	
SUBJECT: TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	
APPROVED:	
	Chairperson, Law Enforcement Users Subcommittee
APPROVED:	
	Scotty A. Douglass, General Manager

1.0 Policy

There are several types of traffic accident calls for service. In order to generate the most appropriate response, and send the appropriate equipment, dispatchers should always attempt to gain as much information as possible from callers.

2.0 Procedure

2.1 Types of Traffic Accidents:

- ◆ Injury accidents
- ◆ Non-injury accidents
- ◆ Fatal accidents
- ◆ Law Enforcement involved accidents
- ◆ Accidents involving a school bus
- ◆ Hit and run accidents
- ◆ Private property accidents

2.2 Standard Questions to Ask Any Person Reporting a Traffic Accident:

- ◆ Location of the accident
- ◆ Time element: when did the accident occur?
- ◆ Location of the involved vehicles: are they in a parking lot or on the side of the road?

- ♦ Injuries
- ♦ Number of vehicles involved
- ♦ Are the involved vehicles blocking the roadway?
- ♦ Involved vehicle descriptions
- ♦ If known, are there any drugs or alcohol involved?

2.3 It is usual for a traffic accident to generate numerous requests for assistance in the space of a few minutes. Dispatchers will keep in mind that courtesy is necessary when receiving multiple calls.

2.4 Injury Accidents

- ♦ Assign two units – traffic when available, patrol if no traffic units are available. If only two patrol units are on duty, not more than one patrol unit will be assigned to the accident unless it is of a serious nature.
- ♦ The caller should be routed through the EMD system per policy 5770.

2.5 Non-Injury Accidents

- ♦ Assign a traffic unit, patrol unit, or CSO as applicable.
- ♦ If the vehicles are blocking the roadway or several vehicles are involved, it may be necessary to dispatch two officers for traffic control.

2.6 Unknown Injury Accidents

- ♦ Assign two officers, when applicable (traffic when available, otherwise patrol).
- ♦ Upon arrival, the officers shall advise if fire and/or ambulance are needed.

2.7 Fatal Accidents

- ♦ Assign two officers (traffic when available, otherwise patrol).
- ♦ Notify the patrol supervisor. Make additional notifications as requested by the patrol supervisor.

2.8 Accidents Involving Police Vehicles/Personnel

- ♦ All vehicle accidents involving a law enforcement vehicle are handled the same as any other traffic accident; except dispatch a field supervisor to the scene in addition to a regular patrol/traffic unit.

2.9 Accidents Occurring on a Freeway

- ◆ CHP handles all freeway accidents, including on and off ramps. When possible, transfer these calls for service to the CHP. If a transfer is not possible, obtain the relevant information and relay to the CHP.
- ◆ CHP may request a local officer standby at the scene of an accident occurring on the freeway within the local jurisdiction if their response time is going to be delayed.

2.10 Accidents Involving a School Bus

- ◆ Dispatch a local officer to standby until the CHP determines whether or not they will respond to the scene of a school bus accident.
- ◆ CHP responds to all school bus accidents (except those occurring on private property with no injuries).

2.11 Hit and Run Accidents – Just Occurred

2.11.1 Upon receipt of a hit and run accident call that just occurred the call taker should first treat the call as a crime prior to entering the EMD system. The following information should be obtained from the Reporting Party:

- ◆ Location of accident
- ◆ Suspect vehicle description
- ◆ Color, make and model
- ◆ License plate number, if known
- ◆ Location of damage to suspect vehicle
- ◆ Direction of travel
- ◆ Number and description of occupants
- ◆ Assign one traffic/patrol officer and a cover unit, if appropriate, to the call
- ◆ Any injuries?
- ◆ If so, the caller will be routed through the EMD system

2.11.2 Run the license plate of the suspect vehicle for a hot check and registration. Advise the officer of the status of the license plate along with the type of vehicle from the registration check; if the license number comes back stolen, the officer should be advised IMMEDIATELY. If the registration comes back to a different make of vehicle, confirm the license plate number. Give all information concerning the suspect vehicle to the responding officer without delay.

2.12 Hit and Run Accident - Cold Report

- ◆ Assign one traffic/patrol unit to the call. A CSO may be assigned (except WPD), if the hit and run did not involve any injuries.

2.13 Private Property Accidents

2.13.1 Usually, an officer is not dispatched to a private property accident unless one of the following conditions exists. If there were no injuries, a CSO may be assigned, (except WPD).

- ◆ Injuries or fatality
- ◆ Public property damage
- ◆ Hit and run
- ◆ Possible drunk or impaired driver involved
- ◆ Involved party(ies) request an officer at the scene
- ◆ The Reporting Party is not an involved party