



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS

SOP 1-95 (Formerly 6-3)

Effective: 12/24/19 Review: 12/24/20 Replaces: 08/25/16

1-95 TRAFFIC SECTION

Related SOP(s):

[2-40 Misdemeanor Traffic and City Ordinance Enforcement](#)

[2-41 Traffic Stops](#)

[2-42 DWI Investigations and Revoked/Suspended License](#)

[2-44 Traffic and Roadway Services](#)

[2-46 Response To Traffic Crashes](#)

[2-47 Crashes Involving Police Vehicles](#)

1-95-1 Purpose

The purpose of the Traffic Section is to provide the Department with officers and Police Service Aids (PSA) whose primary purpose is traffic enforcement, crash investigations, escorts, and special event traffic management.

1-95-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department to establish, train, and use the Traffic Section as a complementary unit to assist the field with traffic-related investigations, enforcement, and planning. The Section also assists the Department with training and administrative reviews of Department involved crashes.

1-95-3 Definitions

A. Police Action

An official activity including by not limited to vehicle pursuit, directing traffic, sobriety checkpoints, traffic stops, felony stops, and escorts or motorcades.

B. Selective Traffic Enforcement Programs (STEP)

Enforcement which is proportional to traffic accidents concerning time, place, and type of violation.

C. Serious-Injury Crash

A crash involving serious injuries which could result in death.



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1-95-4 Rules and Responsibilities

7

A. Traffic Enforcement

1. Personnel patrol all areas of the city and enforce all traffic violations observed.
2. Personnel may use Tact Plans to target specific violations in specific areas when requested.
3. Personnel shall follow SOP – Misdemeanor, Traffic, and City Ordinance Enforcement and SOP - Traffic Stops.
4. Personnel will also complete DWI investigations that are the outcome of a traffic stop. See SOP – DWI Investigations and Revoked/Suspended License.

7

B. Crash investigation

1. Personnel respond, investigate, and complete reports for crashes.
2. Personnel shall follow SOP – Response to Traffic Crashes.
3. When available and reasonable, traffic units will take primary for field officers responding to crashes so that the field officers may take other calls for service.
4. Personnel may also complete DWI investigations that are the outcome of a crash they are dispatched to. See SOP – DWI Investigations and Revoked/Suspended License.

6

C. Fatal and Serious Injury Crash investigations

1. The Traffic Section will have case responsibility and be on-call for all fatal or serious injury crashes investigated by the Department.
 - a. Fatal and serious injury crashes, which are the result of a police action will be investigated by a multi-agency fatal call out team which includes the APD Traffic Fatal Team.
2. Traffic supervisors will manage the on-call list.
3. Call-out procedures include:



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- a. Field Officers, or when available, Traffic Officers will respond to crashes involving serious injury.
 - b. If a vehicle occupant is transported to the hospital in a Category 1 or 2 status, a field officer will follow the ambulance to the hospital to gain information on the status of the patient.
 - c. The field supervisor will secure the scene until the status is determined to be non-fatal.
 - d. If a vehicle occupant does succumb to a fatal injury (whether at the scene or the hospital), the on-scene supervisor will request the on-call Traffic Sergeant through Emergency Communications Center (ECC).
 - e. The on-scene supervisor will ensure that a Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) is requested and responds to the scene.
 - f. The Traffic Sergeant will notify the on-call Fatal Team who will respond to the scene with the needed equipment.
 - g. The Traffic Sergeant will become the incident commander (IC) of the scene.
 - h. Field personnel will assist with scene security while the Fatal Team completes the investigation.
4. Traffic officers will have ten working days to complete in-custody fatal reports and 60 working days to complete all other fatal reports.

N/A

D. Escorts

1. The Traffic Section will assist with any traffic escorts ordered by the Chief of Police or designee.
2. Escorts may include:
 - a. Funeral processions;
 - i. The decedent must have died an honorable death. Suicides and deaths suffered during the commission of a criminal act by or in collusion are not considered to be an honorable death and meet one of the following criteria:
 - The decedent was killed in action while on active duty with any armed forces of the United States;
 - The decedent was actively employed (or volunteered) in any capacity by the Department;
 - The decedent was actively employed or honorably retired as a law enforcement officer or firefighter with any local, state, or federal agency.
 - The decedent had an immediate family relationship with an employee of the Department.



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- The decedent is deemed by the Chief to be a person worthy of the escort as a result of exemplary public service.
 - b. Dignitary protection; or
 - c. Over-sized load Transports
3. The Traffic Section may request additional officers or PSAs to assist.

N/A E. Special Event Traffic Management

1. The Traffic Section will assist with major City events that require traffic management plans.
2. The Traffic Section Lieutenant will be responsible for designing and implementing traffic management plans.

7 F. Specialized Equipment and Vehicles

1. Police Crash Investigation Vehicle (Fatal Truck)
 - a. The Traffic Unit will maintain this vehicle.
 - b. It may be taken home by the primary on-call Traffic officer.
 - c. Officers will not use this vehicle as a patrol vehicle.

6 2. Motorcycles

- a. Officers must complete motorcycle training to be issued and operate a motorcycle on patrol.
- b. Officers shall wear their issued helmet at all times while operating a police motorcycle.
- c. Motorcycles will be issued by the Lieutenant.
- d. Officers will return motorcycles to the unit when they leave the unit.
- e. Officers may use pool motorcycles during maintenance of issued motorcycles.

7 G. Freeway Unit

1. Responds to all crashes on the interstate(s);
2. Enforces traffic laws;
3. Enforces commercial motor vehicle (CMV) violations;



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4. Completes CMV safety inspections; and
5. May leave the interstate for priority one calls and fatal/serious injury crashes.

7

H. Hit and Run Detail

1. Completes follow-up investigation on all forwarded hit and run crashes with offender information.
2. Contacts registered owners of hit and run offender vehicles to obtain insurance information.
3. Files criminal complaints about cases resulting in no insurance or any other criminal offense.

I. Traffic Analyst Detail

1. Collects and reviews all traffic-related data which is provided to the Traffic Section Lieutenant so that Selective Traffic Enforcement Programs (STEP) may be coordinated.
2. Completes and provides annual crash analysis reports to City Traffic Engineering.

N/A

J. Motorcycle Safety Board

1. Composed of:
 - a. Traffic Lieutenant; and
 - b. Three sworn and certified motorcycle instructors.
2. Evaluates crashes involving personnel operating Department motorcycles;
3. Evaluates equipment for safety purposes;
4. Presents guidelines, procedures, and policy on training and safety to the Division Commander;
5. Organizes and evaluates motorcycle instructor manuals and trains all APD motorcycle;
6. Addresses officer safety concerns;



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N/A K. Training

1. The Traffic Section officers must be certified to ride the issued motorcycle within six months. Officers are allowed up to two attempts of the Advanced Motorcycle Training Program. Failure to pass the Advance Motorcycle Training Program will result in removal from the Motor Unit.
2. The Traffic Section provides training to Department personnel, outside agencies, and the community with a focus on traffic-related topics.