



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-50 (Formerly 3-66)

Effective: 02/21/2023 Review: 02/21/2024 Replaces: 03/02/2021

2-50 CRASH REVIEW BOARD (CRB)

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

- [1-95 Metro Traffic Division \(Formerly 4-06 and 6-3\)](#)
- [2-47 Crashes Involving Police Vehicles \(Formerly 1-18\)](#)
- [3-46 Discipline System \(Formerly 1-09\)](#)

B. Form(s)

State of New Mexico Uniform Crash Report (UCR)

C. Other Resource(s)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

2-50-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to convene a Crash Review Board (CRB) to review and classify all Albuquerque Police Department-issued (Department) vehicle crashes as preventable or non-preventable. The CRB reviews all preventable crashes for cause analysis to prevent similar types of crashes in the future.

2-50-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department to provide guidelines for the CRB, which reviews all Department-issued vehicle crashes.

N/A 2-50-3 Definitions

A. Crash

An unintended event resulting in injury or damage involving one (1) or more motor vehicles as defined by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

B. Non-Crash

Damage caused by an intentional act that is not a crash, under normal driving conditions, which strikes a motor vehicle likely to cause damage this includes, but is not limited to a Pursuit Intervention (PIT) maneuver.



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C. Non-Preventable Crash

A crash that involved a motor vehicle that could not have been averted by an act, or failure to act, by the driver when the driver exercised normal judgment and foresight and was unable to avoid it or which steps would have risked causing another kind of mishap.

D. Preventable Crash

A crash in which the driver failed to do everything that reasonably could have been done to avoid the crash, and if a driver, who exercises normal judgment and foresight could have foreseen the possibility of the crash, and avoided it by taking steps within their control which would not have risked causing another kind of mishap.

6 2-50-4 Rules

N/A A. CRB personnel shall review all crashes involving Department-issued vehicles, to determine whether or not the crash was preventable or non-preventable except for crashes that result in a fatality or serious injury, consistent with SOP Metro Traffic Division (refer to SOP Metro Traffic Division for sanction classifications and additional duties).

1. Fatal or serious injury crashes shall be reviewed by Traffic Division personnel who have been certified in crash reconstruction.

B. Appointments to the CRB

1. The CRB shall consist of:

- a. The Metro Traffic Division Commander (chairperson);
- b. The Metro Traffic Division Lieutenant;
- c. A Metro Traffic Division Sergeant;
- d. A Metro Traffic Division Officer;
- e. One (1) Operations Review Section employee who shall review crashes involving Department-issued vehicles; and
- f. The Department Safety Officer serves as an ex officio member and provides technical assistance to the CRB, such as loss reduction and hazard elimination principles and recognized practices and principles applicable to the crash review process.

2. Each calendar year, the Metro Traffic Division Commander appoints members to the CRB as follows:

- a. The Metro Traffic Division Commander who acts as the chairperson;
- b. The Metro Traffic Division Lieutenant;
- c. A Metro Traffic Division Sergeant; and



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- d. A Metro Traffic Division Officer.
 3. Department personnel serving in the following positions shall serve on the CRB on a permanent basis:
 - a. The Department Safety Officer; and
 - b. An Operations Review Section employee.
 4. Department personnel serving in the following positions shall serve in an advisory position on the CRB on a permanent basis:
 - a. An Internal Affairs Professional Standards (IAPS) Division civilian employee; and
 - b. The Metro Traffic Division Administrative Assistant.
- C. Reviewing Crashes that Involve Department-Issued Vehicles
1. When reviewing Department-issued vehicle crashes, CRB personnel shall:
 - a. Post a Department Memorandum in the Department's document management system with the date, time, and location the crash review board shall meet.
 - i. The involved personnel's attendance at the CRB's vehicle crash review is voluntary; therefore no overtime is authorized.
 - ii. Only the involved personnel shall be allowed to attend the CRB.
 - iii. Department personnel who were not involved in the crash shall not be permitted to attend the review.
 - iv. If the involved personnel does not wish to attend the CRB, CRB personnel shall rely on the facts and information in the UCR. CRB personnel may use photographs and video from the Department issued vehicle crash investigation.
 1. CRB personnel shall have the authority to require the involved personnel to attend the CRB if they determine it is necessary to speak with the involved personnel to make a determination regarding the Department-issued vehicle crash. If involved personnel are required to attend the CRB overtime is authorized.
 - v. When the involved personnel wants to appear at the CRB voluntarily but cannot attend due to scheduling conflicts, such as court hearings, calls for service, previously scheduled training, or vacation, the Traffic Division Lieutenant shall reschedule the review until the next CRB meeting;
 1. CRB personnel shall reschedule the review at the request of the involved personnel.
 2. CRB personnel shall only allow the involved personnel one (1) continuance per crash.
 - b. Review each Department-issued vehicle crash not resulting in a fatality or serious injury, and determine whether the crash was a preventable crash, a non-preventable crash, or a non-crash.



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N/A

- i. CRB personnel shall serve in an advisory capacity, having no disciplinary authority. The Chief of Police or their designee shall have the authority and responsibility to discipline subordinates.
- ii. CRB personnel shall submit all CRB rulings to the Chief of Police.
- iii. Rulings of the CRB are not subject to review or appeal by any other existing Department boards.
- iv. The involved personnel's Bureau Deputy Chief may override the CRB's findings.
- v. Rulings may include, but are not limited to:
 1. Remedial or refresher training for the involved personnel;
 2. Review or modification of the involved personnel's training or tactics;
 3. Modification or re-evaluation of Department-issued vehicle or equipment;
 4. Review or modification of Department policies and procedures; and
 5. Evaluation of Department personnel for vision defects, stress-related problems, or other conditions affecting their fitness for duty.

N/A

2. The Chief of Police or their designee shall have final authority to decide who shall review the case if a conflict in the CRB's determination occurs.

D. Disciplinary Guidelines

1. CRB personnel do not have disciplinary authority.
 - a. The Chief of Police or their designee shall have the authority and responsibility to discipline subordinates.
2. CRB personnel shall classify all preventable crashes as a Class 6 offense consistent with SOP Discipline System (refer to SOP Discipline System for sanction classifications and additional duties)
 - a. The Metro Traffic Division Administrative Assistant shall forward all CRB data to the IAPS Division, the CRB, and Civilian Police Oversight Agency (CPOA).
 - b. The Chief of Police or their designee shall consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances when determining the amount of discipline to be imposed, as outlined in SOP Complaints Involving Department Personnel (refer to SOP Complaints Involving Department Personnel for sanction classifications and additional duties).
3. CRB personnel shall consider the incident a non-crash when a Department-issued vehicle's damage is limited to no more than one (1) tire or rim, whether intentional or accidental, and one (1) mounted spare tire can resolve the incident.

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N/A

N/A

- a. Department personnel shall report these incidents as outlined in SOP Crashes Involving Police Vehicles (refer to SOP Crashes involving Police Vehicles for sanction classifications and additional duties).

F. Photographs for Review by the CRB



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1. The Metro Traffic Division Administrative Assistant shall request all crash-related photographs from the Scientific Evidence Division (SED).
 - a. Once the Metro Traffic Division Administrative Assistant collects the crash-related photos, CRB personnel shall review them.