

COURSE OUTLINE
CRIM- 128
Emergency Vehicle Operations
3 Semester hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course is designed to meet the MPCTC minimum training objectives and requirements for every entry-level police officer in the State of Maryland in the safe operation of an emergency vehicle. Only students authorized by the Howard County Police Department Academy are eligible to enroll in this course (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify the components and importance of defensive driving, such as attitude, skill, vehicle capability, driving conditions.
2. Identify driver attitudes or conditions which greatly contribute to the occurrence of traffic accidents, such as: over-confidence, self-righteousness, impatience, preoccupation, and fatigue.
3. Identify driving activities which most frequently contribute to collisions; backing up, parking, and left turns.
4. Identify qualities of a good driver, to include: driving within own limitations, maintains good physical condition, uses mature judgment, has knowledge of rules of the road, is rested and alert.
5. Identify hazards of driving at night, such as reduced visibility and over-driving headlights.
6. Identify importance of knowing traffic conditions in all directions and all visible distance.
7. Identify conditions which affect the stopping distance of a vehicle, such as driver, vehicle, road, and weather.
8. Identify in proper sequence the following components that make up total stopping distances: perception of danger, decision time, reaction time, braking distance.
9. Identify advantages and disadvantages to high speed pursuit.
10. Identify elements of high speed pursuit, utilization and limitations of emergency equipment, and pursuit tactics.
11. Identify circumstances of a police officer's liability and exemption from liability when operating an emergency vehicle.
12. Identify differences of procedure for high speed pursuit in a congested area vs. Open road vs. Off road.
13. Describe or demonstrate the ability to regain control of vehicle experiencing a front wheel skid.
14. Demonstrate through driving exercises proper road position, weight transfer, throttle control, braking and steering accuracy both forward and backward while performing various maneuvers.

15. Demonstrate the ability to maneuver a vehicle forward and backward in restricted space areas.
16. Demonstrate ability to safely operate and control a law enforcement vehicle, for example, during a controlled low or high speed pursuit, to include headlights, emergency lights, siren and communications equipment, and driving at night.
17. Demonstrate the techniques of accident avoidance by smoothly and rapidly displacing the vehicle left or right upon command.
18. Demonstrate proper procedure for operating a vehicle, for example, driving in rain during controlled and high speed pursuit, pumping brakes when stopping, turning wheel in direction of skid, regard for reduce visibility, ice, snow.
19. Demonstrate and perform first line maintenance on patrol vehicle, i.e., replenish fluid levels, adding air to tires, washing vehicle, or changing a tire using the jack provided by the manufacturer.
20. Describe or demonstrate the ability to regain control of a vehicle experiencing a rear wheel skid.
21. Describe or demonstrate the ability to regain control of a vehicle experiencing an all wheel skid.
22. Identify the disadvantages of high-speed pursuit

Major topics

- I. Pre-trip inspection
- II. Seating position and posture
- III. Seat belts
- IV. Hand/Steering position
- V. Throttle/Speed control
- VI. Braking Control
- VII. Turns and Turning
- VIII. Visual Habits and Perception
- IX. Foul Weather and Adverse Conditions
- IX. Night Driving
- X. Backing Judgment
- XI. Following Distance
- XII. Emergency Response/Pursuit Driving
- XIII. Defensive Awareness and Presence of Mind
- XIV. Signals

Course Requirements

Each student will receive lecture instruction and will be tested on each objective and evaluated through practical exercises specially designed to answer the individual objective and meeting established standards.