

	Operational General Order	12.05 Traffic Crash Investigations	PAGE 1 OF 2
	SUBJECT		EFFECTIVE DATE
	Virginia Beach Police Department General Order Chapter 12 - Traffic Operations		10/10/2017
			ORIGINATOR/REVIEW Special Operations
DISTRIBUTION	CALEA: 61.2.2		
ALL			
BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:		<i>James A. Coonan</i>	

Purpose

To establish the procedures for responding, investigating, and documenting vehicle crashes. Crash Scene Investigations are conducted to assist motorists involved, and to determine if there has been a violation of the law and if so, to obtain the evidence necessary to charge the violator(s). A Motor vehicle crash is defined as an Unintentional event involving a motor vehicle or its load, in transport, on a public roadway/property which causes an injury, property damage or death.

Policy

Officers will respond to all crash scenes, disturbances, or traffic problems created by a crash in accordance with their training and the guidance of the Field Reporting Field Guide (Chapter 4 - Crash Investigations and Reporting Guidelines).

General Response Procedure (CALEA 61.2.2)

Officers assigned by E911 Emergency Communications Division to respond to motor vehicle crashes shall do so in accordance with General Order 10.02 (Response to Calls for Service). Crashes involving the following circumstances will require additional resources and or police units. These circumstances are as follows:

1. Death or Injury – Conditions permitting, officers will normally respond to crashes involving death and or potential or actual injury under emergency conditions as described in General Order 10.02 (Response to Calls for Service.) Additionally, E911 Emergency Communications Division at the time of the call will dispatch Emergency Medical Services. Members of the Fatal Crash Team of Special Operations will be responsible for conducting investigations involving death or life threatening injury.
2. Hit and Run- Unless injury is reported, officers will normally respond to reports of hit and run accidents under routine conditions. Additional officers may respond to assist in locating the suspect vehicle if conditions permit. Follow up investigation regarding hit and run cases are conducted by detectives assigned to the Hit and Run Unit of the Detective Bureau.
3. DUI Related Crashes - Unless injury is reported, officers will normally respond to reports of alcohol or drug related crashes under routine conditions.
4. Damage to Public Vehicles or Property - Unless injury is reported, officers will normally respond to reports of crashes involving public owned vehicles and or property under routine conditions. In addition, the agency or organization responsible for the public vehicle or property will be notified by the officer via E911 Emergency Communications Division. Officers will cooperate with other

agencies or organizations in gathering information such as photographs of the scene, etc. In the event of a crash involving a Virginia Beach Police Department vehicle, a supervisor will respond to investigate.

5. Hazardous Materials - Unless injury is reported, officers will normally respond to reports of crashes involving hazardous materials under routine conditions. The Virginia Beach Fire Department will respond and render the scene safe prior to officers entering the scene for investigative purposes. The Motor Carrier Safety Unit of Special Operations will investigate crashes involving hazardous materials.
6. Disputes between principals – When the parties involved in the crash are reported to be involved in exchanging threats of physical harm, or actually assaultive toward each other, officers will normally respond under emergency conditions. If either of the parties are injured during the assault, the officer should render aid and request emergency medical services if necessary and proceed with a criminal investigation in addition to the crash investigation.
7. Traffic Congestion – In cases where congestion can be reasonably predicted based on the time and location of the crash, assist officers may be assigned for traffic control, or requested by the responding officer at the time of the call. When deemed necessary by the officer in charge of the investigation additional officers or Community Service Officers may be assigned for traffic control. In cases where the investigation may be lengthy, traffic engineering may be requested to post signs or cones to assist in traffic control or road closures.
8. Damaged Vehicles – Tow vehicles may be requested by the investigating or assisting officer at the scene of the crash to remove damaged vehicles in accordance with General Order 12.12 (Abandoned Vehicles and Towing.) Officers should honor the requests of motorists for specific tow companies if the conditions at the scene permit, and the response of the motorist requested company would not be lengthy. Otherwise, tow companies from the approved police tow list will be requested.
9. Inclement Weather – Officer will respond to crashes occurring during inclement weather as conditions permit. In situations when the number of crashes exceeds police resources, the calls will be stacked and responded to as resources become available. E911 Emergency Communications Division dispatchers will explain the situation to callers and provide estimated times of arrival when possible.
10. Previous Crash – A crash in which two parties have traveled to some destination removed from the place of the incident. An example would be where two people are involved in a crash, exchange information and agree to leave, then one decides later to report it. Officers assigned to such cases are to meet with or advise the party or parties involved that the Department of Motor Vehicles does not require a crash report to be filed under these circumstances. Also, the parties should be advised to contact their insurance companies.