

**EI Centro Police Department
Driver Awareness
Course Control #3620-29502-19
Expanded Course Outline
Revised 12/09/2019**

Purpose:

Course is designed to provide students with skills to become proficient in utilizing slow speed maneuvering. Control of a vehicle at slow speeds while negotiating movements, driving forward and in reverse under restricted road conditions, as well as parking maneuvers.

I. Introduction/Orientation

- A. Introduction, Registration, and Orientation
- B. Course Objectives, Overview, Exercises, Evaluation, and testing.

II. Basic Driving Principles

A. Weight Transfer **II(g)**

- 1. Weight Transfer
 - a. Vehicle is a sprung mass
 - b. Center of gravity shifts depending on height of vehicle
- 2. Engine location has greater part of weight distribution
- 3. Types of weight transfer
 - a. Lateral: Side to side
 - b. Longitudinal: Front to rear/ Rear to front
- 4. Lateral transfer occurs when vehicle moves left or right
- 5. Longitudinal transfer occurs when:
 - a. Braking (rear to front)
 - b. Accelerating (front to rear)
 - c. Decelerating (rear to front)
- 6. Cannot be eliminated in a moving vehicle
- 7. Minimized by good driving techniques and smooth operation

B. Steering Control

- 1. Seating position
 - a. Driver comfort
 - b. Efficient vehicle control
 - c. Wrist break over top of steering wheel
 - d. Seated 12" from air bag
 - e. Adjust mirrors
- 2. Steering Method **II(e)**
 - a. Hand position at 8 and 4
 - b. Hands do not leave steering wheel
 - c. Maximizes steering accuracy
 - d. Safer and more effective recovery
 - e. Minimizes weight transfer

- f. Minimizes air bag deployment injury
- 3. Steering Method – Backing
 - a. Body rotated to the right
 - b. Right hand placed on right headrest
 - c. Vision directed over right shoulder
 - d. Left hand on steering wheel at 12 o'clock position
 - e. Press left leg against bottom of steering wheel for stability
 - f. Left foot braced on floorboard

C. Roadway Position

- 1. The position of the vehicle on the roadway that maximizes speed with minimum steering and risk of loss of vehicle control while negotiating a turn
 - a. AKA- Driving line
- 2. Driving Advantages
 - a. Minimize and control weight transfer
 - b. Minimize steering input
 - c. Smoother vehicle operation
 - d. Maximum speed through turns in the safest manner
- 3. Driving Points in Turns
 - a. Entry (point #1)
 - b. Apex (point #2)
 - c. Exit (point #3)

III. **Legal and Moral Aspects**

II(f)

A. California Codes

- 1. 17001 CVC
- 2. 17994 CVC
- 3. 17004.7 CVC
- 4. 21052 CVC
- 5. 21055 CVC
- 6. 21056 CVC
- 7. 21057 CVC
- 8. 21703 CVC
- 9. 21806 CVC
- 10. 21807 CVC
- 11. 22106 CVC
- 12. 22350 CVC

B. Case Law

- 1. Traffic Accidents
 - a. Peterson vs. City of Long Beach
 - i. Failure to follow policy/rules
 - ii. Civil Liability
 - iii. 669 Evidence Code

- 2. Grant vs. Petronella
 - a. Non-code 3 driving
 - b. Rules of the road
- 3. Pursuits
 - a. Stark vs. City of Los Angeles
 - i. Pursuit type driving without lights and siren
 - ii. City is liable
- 4. Tennessee vs. Garner
 - a. Deadly force considerations
- 5. Brower vs. Inyo County
 - a. Roadblocks
 - i. “Deadman’s” roadblocks
 - ii. PIT maneuver
- C. Agency Policy
 - 1. Vehicle Pursuit Policy
 - 2. Vehicle Operations Policy
- D. Moral Aspects
 - 1. Due Diligence
 - a. Due Regard for others safety
 - b. Balancing of our actions and the benefit or harm to the community

IV. Defensive Driving II(c)

- A. Defensive Drivers
 - 1. Avoid collisions regardless of right-of-way
 - 2. React properly to hazards
 - 3. Maintain a professional attitude
 - 4. Commentary driving
- B. Dangerous Driver Attitudes
 - 1. Overconfidence
 - 2. Self-righteousness
 - 3. Impatience
 - 4. Preoccupation
- C. Collision Avoidance II(d)
 - 1. Space cushion
 - i. Three second rule
 - ii. Perception/ Reaction Time (1.5 seconds).
 - iii. When stopped, see rear wheels of vehicle in front
 - 2. Intersections
 - i. Clear left, right, then left again
 - ii. Cover brake on stale green light
 - iii. Do not turn wheels until beginning turn
 - iv. Look through turns
 - 3. Maintain high visual horizon—Look beyond hood of vehicle.

- 4. Consider steering to the rear of a conflict vehicle
 - 5. Backing
 - i. Large percentage of collisions involving LE vehicles
 - ii. Use proper backing techniques
 - 6. Lane changes
 - i. Signal
 - ii. Check mirrors
 - iii. Check blind spots
 - i. Equipment in LE vehicle's creates more and larger blind spots
- D. Occupant Safety Devices
- 1. Safety belts
 - 2. Supplemental Restraint System (airbags)
- E. Vehicle Dynamics **II(g)**
- 1. Rear wheel cheat
 - 2. Front-end swing
 - 3. Over steer
 - 4. Under steer
- V. **Maneuvering Courses Exercises** **II(a,b)**
- A. Offset Lane Exercise
 - B. Turn-Around Maneuver Exercise
 - C. Steering Course Exercise
 - D. Parallel Parking Exercise **II(e)**
- VI. **Course Evaluation/Review**
- Student Evaluation Form to be provided to students for course and Instructor(s) evaluations.