



2-46 RESPONSE TO TRAFFIC CRASHES

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

- 1-78 Police Service Aide Program
- 2-48 Towing and Wrecker Services

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

2-46-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide the procedures to be followed when Albuquerque Police Department (Department) personnel respond to and investigate traffic crashes.

2-46-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department to respond to and investigate traffic crashes that occur on a roadway while limiting the impact to the flow of traffic through rapid assessment of personal injury and damage to vehicles and the immediate re-opening of lanes of traffic.

N/A 2-46-3 Definitions

A. Serious Injury Crash

A crash involving serious injuries that could result in death.

B. Traffic Crash

An unintended event resulting in injury or damage, involving one (1) or more motor vehicles.

6 2-46-4 Procedures

A. Responding to a Reported or Observed Crash



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1. Department personnel who are the first to respond to the scene shall:
 - a. Position their vehicle in order to protect the vehicle and vehicle occupant(s);
 - b. Immediately determine the extent of occupants' injuries;
 - i. If necessary, Department personnel shall request for emergency medical services (EMS) personnel to respond.
 - c. Protect the scene of the crash to the greatest extent possible;
 - i. If there is a serious injury or fatality, Department personnel shall identify and separate witnesses.
 - ii. Department personnel shall not move involved vehicles nor debris until the investigation is complete.
 - d. Determine whether the crashed vehicle(s) is operational;
 - e. Request for a tow truck to remove vehicles that cannot be removed by the registered owner because it is inoperable or is a hazard, consistent with SOP Towing and Wrecker Services;
 - f. Ensure vehicles and debris are removed from the roadway;
 - i. Once the crash investigation is complete, on-scene Department personnel or personnel with the responding wrecker company shall remove debris from the roadway to limit damage to other motorist's or their vehicles.
 - g. Be responsible for conducting the investigation;
 - h. Submit a Uniform Crash Report, unless otherwise specified in this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP);
 - i. After investigating the crash, take any necessary enforcement action; and
 - j. Request additional assistance from other Department personnel, as needed.
3. Department personnel shall complete a Uniform Crash Report, including a diagram of the crash, through TraCS for:
 - a. All crashes involving Department vehicles; and
 - b. All crashes where there are serious injuries or a fatality.
4. A Police Service Aide (PSA) may be allowed to complete a Uniform Incident Report on crashes with injuries with the approval of a supervisor, consistent with SOP Police Service Aide Program.

B. Proper Removal of Vehicles Following a Crash

1. If the vehicle is operational, and there are no serious injuries, fatalities or the crash does not involve a driver suspected of driving under the influence, Department personnel shall direct the driver to remove their vehicle from the roadway as quickly and safely as possible.
2. If feasible, Department personnel shall make every effort to maintain the safe and constant flow of traffic around the scene, if the vehicles cannot be removed safely.

C. Freeway Crashes



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1. Emergency Communications Center (ECC) personnel shall dispatch Field Services Bureau (FSB) personnel with a Department-issued equipped with emergency lights to the scene of all crashes on the freeway, if a Metro Traffic Division officer on a motorcycle was initially dispatched to investigate the crash.
2. Department personnel may request for ECC personnel to send New Mexico Department of Transportation (DOT) Courtesy Patrol (Help Truck) personnel, if they are available.

D. Private Property Crashes

1. Department personnel shall only complete Uniform Crash Reports for crashes occurring on private property that involve:
 - a. Serious injury or a fatality;
 - b. A vehicle belonging to the City of Albuquerque or upon request of other governmental agencies;
 - c. The driver is suspected of driving under the influence;
 - d. The driver was driving reckless;
 - e. Hit and run crash investigations with offender information; and
 - f. Crashes where there is extensive damage to private property.
2. If any of the above conditions are not met, ECC personnel shall advise the involved parties to complete a Uniform Crash Report at any Department substation.
3. Department personnel who are flagged down by a community member or who encounter private property crashes shall:
 - a. Ensure the involved parties exchange the necessary information, including, but not limited to the driver's name, vehicle information, and insurance information;
 - b. Advise the involved parties to complete a Uniform Crash Report at any Department substation within five (5) working days; and
 - c. If a Uniform Crash Report is requested by parties in the crash, refer them to the appropriate Department substation.

E. Hit and Run Crashes

1. The investigating officer shall be responsible for hit and run follow-up investigations when:
 - a. The hit and run vehicle is registered within City of Albuquerque limits; and
 - b. The all developed leads for the investigation have been exhausted.
2. Hit and run follow-up investigations shall be coordinated by Hit and Run Unit personnel.



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- a. The Hit and Run Unit officer shall review and reassign cases back to sworn personnel when additional information is available and enforcement action or follow-up investigation can be done.
- b. The Hit and Run Unit officer shall coordinate follow-up investigations for vehicles registered outside of the City of Albuquerque.

F. Crashes Involving City Vehicles

1. If available, on-duty Metro Traffic Division sworn personnel shall investigate all crashes with injuries in a City-owned vehicle.
2. Metro Traffic Division sworn personnel shall investigate non-injury crashes involving City-owned vehicles, if available, and during their normal working hours.
3. If a Traffic Division Officer is unavailable, a FSB supervisor shall respond to the scene and ensure a proper investigation is completed.

G. Crashes Involving Vehicles from Other Government Agencies

Department personnel shall treat the investigations of crashes involving vehicles from other government agencies the same way as investigations for any other crash.

H. Fatal and Serious Injury Crash Investigations

1. Metro Traffic Division sworn personnel are responsible for fatal and serious injury crash investigations.
 - a. During their normal working hours, Metro Traffic Division sworn personnel shall be dispatched to all fatal and serious injury crashes.
 - b. During non-duty hours, Metro Traffic Division sworn personnel shall be on-call for all fatal and serious injury crashes.
 - c. It shall be the responsibility of the on-duty FSB supervisor to contact the on-call Metro Traffic Division supervisor to provide details of the crash.
2. Metro Traffic Division sworn personnel shall assume responsibility for the scene and for the investigation when they arrive on scene for fatal and serious injury crashes.
3. All Department personnel at the scene of a fatal or serious injury crash shall complete a Supplemental Crash Report describing their actions while on-scene.
4. Department personnel shall provide the Supplemental Crash Report to the investigating officer before the end of their shift (refer to SOP Reports for sanction classifications and additional duties).
5. Metro Traffic Division sworn personnel shall have case responsibility and be on-call for all fatal and serious injury crashes investigated by the Department.

N/A



- a. Fatal and serious injury crashes that are the result of a police action shall be investigated by the Multi-Agency Fatal Call-Out Team, which includes the Metro Traffic Division Fatal Team.

6. Call-out Procedures

- a. FSB sworn personnel, or when available, Metro Traffic Division sworn personnel shall respond to crashes involving a serious injury.
- b. If the occupant of the vehicle is transported to a medical facility in a Category 1 or 2 status, FSB personnel shall follow the ambulance to the medical facility to obtain the patient's status.
- c. The on-scene FSB supervisor shall secure the scene until it is determined that the patient is in stable condition.
- d. If the occupant of the vehicle succumbs to a serious injury, either at the scene or the medical facility, the on-scene FSB supervisor shall request for ECC personnel to contact the on-call Metro Traffic Division supervisor.
- e. The on-scene FSB supervisor shall ensure that a Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) is requested and responds to the scene.
- f. The on-call Metro Traffic Division supervisor shall notify the on-call Metro Traffic Division Fatal Team to respond to the scene with all necessary equipment.
- g. The on-call Metro Traffic Division supervisor shall become the Incident Commander (IC) for the call-out.
- h. FSB personnel shall assist with security of the scene while the completes the investigation.

7. Metro Traffic Division sworn personnel shall complete in-custody fatal crash reports in ten (10) working days and complete all other fatal crash reports in sixty (60) working days.

I. Crashes that Occur During Inclement Weather

1. During inclement weather conditions, sworn supervisors shall be authorized to suspend normal crash investigation procedures for crashes involving minor damage, such as when both vehicles are drivable.
2. ECC personnel or a sworn supervisor shall notify crash victims when weather conditions necessitate the suspension of crash investigations.
3. Department personnel shall inform involved parties that they may obtain a copy of or complete a Uniform Crash Report at the law enforcement center or any Department substation.



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

A. Related SOP(s)

- 1-78 ~~___~~ Police Service Aide Program
- ~~2-40 ___~~ ~~Misdemeanor Traffic and City Ordinance Enforcement~~
- 2-48 ~~___~~ Towing ~~and Wrecker~~ and ~~Wrecker~~ Services
- ~~2-64 ___~~ Identification, Interviewing, and Detention of Witnesses to Crime

B. Form(s)

~~PD X Form Title~~ None

C. Other Resource(s)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administrations (NHTSA)

~~(Placeholder. For example, Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Police Officers' Association)~~

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

~~SO X Subject~~ None

2-46-1 ~~___~~ Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide the procedures to be followed when Albuquerque Police Department (Department) personnel respond to and investigate traffic crashes.

2-46-2 ~~___~~ Policy

It is the policy of the ~~Albuquerque Police Department (Department)~~ to respond to₁ and investigate₁ traffic crashes that occurring on a roadway₇ while limiting the impact to the flow of traffic. ~~These endeavors are accomplished~~ through rapid assessment of personal injury and damage to vehicles and the immediate re-opening of lanes of traffic.

N/A

2-46-3 ~~___~~ Definitions

~~Category 1~~

~~Category 2~~

A. Serious Injury Crash (Life-threatening Injury?)



~~An injury that results in loss of limb, brain injury, loss of organ, major life altering injury, or the inability to breath or function without the assistance of medical intervention. A crash involving serious injuries that could result in death.~~

B. Traffic Crash

An unintended event resulting in injury or damage, involving one (1) or more motor vehicles ~~(National Highway Traffic Safety Administrations definition of a CRASH/crash).~~

~~Serious Injury (Life-threatening Injury?)~~

~~An injury that results in loss of limb, brain injury, loss of organ, major life altering injury, or the inability to breath or function without the assistance of medical intervention.~~

6 C. ~~The title of defined word or unit.~~

~~Describe terminology used.~~

2-46-4 ~~_____~~ Procedures

A. Responding to a Reported or Observed Traffic Crash

~~1. Department personnel who respond arrive first shall position their vehicle in a manner to protect and it is the first responding Officer's personnel's responsibility to ensure the safety of the vehicle and vehicle operator and passengers/occupant(s) and, if feasible, given the traffic and weather conditions, the protection of their vehicle from further damage.~~

~~2.1. First responding Department Officer and/or Police Service Aide (PSA) personnel who are the first to respond to the scene will/shall take these actions:~~

~~a. Position their vehicle in a manner so as in order to protect and ensure the safety of the vehicle and vehicle occupant(s);~~

~~b. Immediately determine the existence extent of occupants' injuries;~~

~~a.i. If necessary, Department personnel shall request Ensure for that emergency medical services (EMS) personnel to respond are provided requested, if necessary.;~~

~~c. Protect the scene of the crash as much as to the greatest extent possible;~~

~~i. If there is a serious injury or fatality, Department personnel shall identify and separate ensure witnesses are identified and separated.;~~

~~b. Department personnel shall not move, and if involved vehicles and nor debris shall not be moved until the investigation is complete. consistent with (See SOP Identification, Interviewing, and Detention of Witnesses to Crime.)~~

~~e. Ensure that emergency medical services are provided, if necessary.;~~

~~ii.~~



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~~d. Request additional assistance as needed;~~

~~=====~~

~~e. Determine whether or not the whether the crashed vehicle(s) are is operational;~~

~~d.~~

~~Request for a wrecker tow truck to remove vehicles that cannot be removed by the registered owner because it is inoperable or is a hazard, consistent with SOP Towing and Wrecker Services;~~

~~f.~~

~~g. Note the positioning of the vehicles(s) consistent with SOP Towing and Wrecker Services;~~

~~A diagram of the crash shall be completed for all crash reports when an injury has been reported;~~

~~h. When a non-injury crash occurs personnel the Officer has the option of completing a diagram;~~

~~e.~~

~~f. Ensure removal of vehicles and debris are removed from the roadway;~~

~~i. O, as described in section B below (once the crash investigation is complete, on-scene Department personnel or personnel with the responding wrecker company shall remove debris can and should shall be removed from the roadway by either the on-scene Officer(s), PSA(s) personnel, or by the responding wrecker company to limit further damage to other the motoring public's vehicles motorist's or their vehicles.)~~

~~g. Be responsible for conducting the investigation;~~

~~i. and submitting Submit a Uniform Crash Report, unless otherwise specified in this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) section; and and~~

~~h.~~

~~3. After investigating the crash, take any the necessary enforcement action; and~~

~~i.~~

~~j. Request additional assistance from other Department personnel (someone), as needed.~~

~~3. Investigation Responsibility~~

~~The first personnel dispatched to handle the crash shall be responsible for conducting the investigation and submitting reports shall rest with the first patrol Officer, traffic Officer, or PSA dispatched to handle the crash unless otherwise specified in this section.~~

~~e. Police Service Aids (PSA)'s will shall be allowed to complete reports on injury crashes with the approval of a supervisor consistent with SOP Police Service Aide Program.~~

~~Department personnel shall complete Crash reports will shall be made on the a State of New Mexico Uniform Crash Report form in TraCS.~~

~~3. Department personnel shall complete a Uniform Crash Reports, including a diagram of the crash, shall be completed on the State of New Mexico Uniform Crash Report form in through TraCS for the following:~~



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- a. All crashes involving Department vehicles; and;
- b. All crashes where there are serious injuries or ~~death~~ fatality;.

- ~~A diagram of the crash shall be completed for all Uniform Crash reports; and~~
- ~~A Police Service Aids (PSA) may be allowed to complete reports on injury crashes with the approval of a supervisor consistent with SOP Police Service Aide Program.~~
- ~~Department personnel shall complete Crash reports on the State of New Mexico Uniform Crash Report form in TraCS. Police Service Aides (PSA) may be allowed to complete a Uniform Incident Report reports on injury crashes with injuries with the approval of a supervisor, consistent with SOP Police Service Aide Program.~~

4. ~~f.~~



B. Proper Removal of Vehicles Following a Crash

- ~~B.~~
- ~~Responding Department personnel shall ensure vehicles are removed from the roadway as quickly and safely as possible.~~

~~4. If the vehicles are is operational, and there are no serious injuries, or fatalities or the crash does not involve a driver suspected of driving under the influence, Department personnel shall direct the driver to remove their vehicle from the roadway as quickly and safely as possible. the vehicles should be removed from the roadway as quickly and safely as possible.~~

- 1.
- 2. If feasible, R~~if the vehicles cannot be removed safely, the responding Department Officer/PSA personnel will shall, if feasible, make every effort to maintain the safe and constant flow of traffic around the scene, if the vehicles cannot be removed safely.~~



C. Freeway Crashes

- 1. Emergency Communications Center (ECC) personnel shall dispatch A F~~Field Services Bureau (FSB) personnel with a unit Department-issued~~ equipped with emergency lights ~~will shall be dispatched~~ to the scene of all crashes on the freeway, if a Metro T~~raffic Division Officer-officer~~ on a motorcycle was initially dispatched to investigate the crash.
- 2. Department Personnel personnel may request for the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) personnel to to send a New Mexico Department of Transportation (DOT) Courtesy Patrol (Help Truck) personnel, when if it is available.



D. Private Property Crashes



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1. ~~Department Personnel shall only complete Uniform eCrash Reports For~~ crashes occurring on private property that involve. ~~Officers will shall complete crash reports ONLY in cases which involve the following:~~
 - a. ~~Great bodily harm~~ Serious injury or a fatality death;
 - b. A vehicle belonging to the City of Albuquerque is involved or upon request of other governmental agencies;
 - c. The driver is Ssuspected of driving under the influence being impaired;
 - ~~e.d. _____ drivers or~~ The driver was driving reckless driving was involved;
 - ~~d.e. _____~~ Hit and run crash investigations with offender information; and
 - ~~e.f. Crashes where there is E~~ extensive damage to private property.
2. If any of the above conditions are not met present, ~~the (Emergency Communications Center) (ECC)~~ personnel shall advise the parties involved parties to ~~obtain complete a Uniform eCrash Rreport forms from at~~ any police Department substation.
3. ~~Department Officers or PSAsP~~ personnel who are flagged down by a community member or who ~~come upon~~ encounter private property crashes ~~will shall take these actions:~~
 - a. Ensure ~~that the~~ involved parties involved e exchange the necessary information, including, but not limited to the driver's name, vehicle information, and insurance information;
 - b. Advise the involved parties involved to fill out complete the a Uniform Crash Report crash forms at any police Department substation within five (5) working days; and
 - c. If a Uniform Crash report Report is requested by parties in the crash, ~~they will shall be refer them red~~ to the appropriate police Department substation.



E. Hit and Run Crashes

1. The investigating officer shall be responsible for Hit hit and run follow-up investigations ~~will shall be the responsibility of the investigating Officer under the following conditions when:~~
 - a. The hit and run vehicle is registered within ~~the Ceity limits~~ of Albuquerque limits; and
 - b. The all developed leads for the investigation will shall continue until all leads developed have been exhausted.
2. Hit and run follow-up investigations will shall be coordinated by ~~the~~ Hit and Run Unit personnel.
 - a. The Hit and Run Unit eofficer is coordination will shall include review and reassign reassignment of cases back to field Officers sworn personnel when



~~additional information is available and can be enforcement action or follow-up investigation can be done.~~

~~2. The Hit and Run Unit Officer officer will shall coordinate follow-up investigations for vehicles registered outside of the Officer's jurisdiction City of Albuquerque.~~

~~b.~~

F. Crashes Involving City Vehicles

1. ~~If available, on-duty Metro Traffic Division sworn personnel shall investigate All injury crashes with injuries in involving a Ceity-owned vehicles will shall be investigated by on-duty Traffic Division personnel if available.~~

2. ~~Metro Traffic Division Officers sworn personnel Officers shall investigate Non-injury crashes involving Ceity-owned vehicles may be investigated by a Ttraffic Officer, if available, and during their normal working hours.~~

~~2.3. If a Ttraffic Division Unit Officer is unnot available, a field FSB supervisor will shall respond to the scene and ensure a proper investigation is completed.~~

G. Crashes Involving Vehicles from Other Government Agencies

~~4.~~

~~2. Department Ppersonnel shall treat the investigations of crashes involving vehicles from other government agencies will shall be treated the same way as investigations of for any other motor vehicle crash.~~

~~Crashes at School Crossings~~

~~1. The investigating Officer will shall assure that the Sschool Ssafety Ccoordinator has been notified in the following cases:~~

~~a. Crashes at school crossings involving school children or school vehicles during normal school hours; and~~

~~b. Crashes when a school crossing guard is present at a school crossing and/or is working at an intersection.~~

~~2. Working hours of guards at the intersections and/or crosswalks can be obtained from Communications the ECC or the Sschool Ssafety Ccoordinator.~~

~~H.~~ Fatal and Potentially Fatal/Serious Injury Crash Investigations

1. Metro Traffic Division sworn Unit personnel are responsible for Fatal fatal and potentially fatal/serious injury crash investigations ~~are the responsibility of traffic personnel.~~

a. During their normal working hours, Metro Ttraffic Division sworn personnel will shall be dispatched to all fatal and ~~potentially fatal/serious injury~~ crashes.



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~~b. During non-duty hours, members of the Metro Fatal Crash Team Traffic Division sworn personnel will~~ shall be on-call for all fatal and ~~potentially fatal~~ serious injury crashes.

~~It will~~ shall be the responsibility of the on-duty ~~field FSB~~ supervisor ~~to~~ to have ~~Communications the ECC~~ contact the on-call Metro Traffic Division supervisor ~~to provide details of the crash and the on-call crash investigators~~ Fatal Crash Team.

~~c.~~

2. ~~Metro~~ Upon their arrival at the scene, the Traffic Division sworn personnel will shall assume responsibility for the scene and for the investigation when they arrive at the on scene for fatal and serious injury crashes.

3. All Department personnel at the scene of a fatal or serious injury crash shall complete a Supplemental Crash Reports from all Officers at the scene, describing their actions while at the on-scene.

N/A

~~3-4. Department will~~ shall be completed and given personnel and shall provide the Supplemental Crash Report to the investigating Officer before the end of each their Officer's shift (refer to SOP Reports for sanction classifications and additional duties).

6

~~Fatal and Serious Injury Crash investigations~~

5. ~~The Metro Traffic Division sworn personnel shall have case responsibility and be on-call for all fatal or~~ and serious injury crashes investigated by the Department.

a. Fatal and serious injury crashes, which that are the result of a police action shall be investigated by the Multi-Agency Fatal Call-Out Team, which includes the Department's Metro Traffic Division Fatal Team.

6. ~~Call-out Procedures include:~~

a. ~~Field FSB sworn P~~ personnel, or when available, Metro Traffic Division Officers sworn personnel shall will respond to crashes involving a serious injury.

b. ~~If an the a vehicle occupant of the vehicle is transported to the hospital,~~ a medical facility in a Category 1 or 2 status, a FSB field personnel shall follow the ambulance to the hospital medical facility to obtain the gain information on the status of the patient's status.

c. ~~The on-scene field FSB supervisor shall secure the scene until it is determined that the patient is in stable condition~~ the status is determined to be non-fatal.

d. ~~If a the occupant of the vehicle occupant does succumb expires succumbs as the result of to aa to a serious fatal injury, either (whether at the scene or the medical facility hospital), the on-scene FSB supervisor shall request the on-call Traffic Division Sergeants supervisor through for Emergency Communications Center (ECC) personnel to dispatch/contact?~~ contact the on-call Metro Traffic Division supervisor.



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- e. The on-scene FSB supervisor shall ensure that a Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) is requested and responds to the scene.
- f. The on-call Metro Traffic Sergeant Division supervisor shall notify the on-call Metro Traffic Division Fatal Team who shall respond to the scene with the needed all necessary equipment.
- g. The on-call Metro Traffic Sergeant Division supervisor shall become the Incident eCommander (IC) of for the call-out scene. and
- h. Field FSB personnel shall assist with scene security of the scene while the Fatal Team completes the investigation.

7. Metro Traffic Division Sworn personnel officers shall complete in-custody fatal crash reports in ten (10) working days and complete all other fatal crash reports in sixty (60) working days.

Crashes that Occurring During Inclement Weather

I.

During inclement weather conditions, sworn

2.1. During inclement weather conditions, Sssupervisors are shall be authorized to suspend normal crash investigation procedures for these crashes involving minor damage, such as when both vehicles are drivable during inclement weather conditions.



K. The ECC personnel or a sworn supervisor shall advise notify Ccrash victims willshall be advised by communications or a supervisor when weather conditions necessitate the suspension of crash investigations.

2.

3. (Someone) Department personnel shall inform Involved involved parties that they may obtain a copy of or willshall be informed where complete a Uniform eCrash Reports forms may be obtained at the law enforcement center or any Department substation.

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