

POST PERISHABLE SKILLS PROGRAM (PSP)
II – DRIVING (PSP)
(Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office 3180)
CCN: 29502 | POST Certification II | Reimbursement Plan N/A | 4

COURSE GOAL:

The course will provide the trainee with the minimum topics of Driving (PSP) required in the POST Perishable Skills Training Program including: Basic Driving Principles, Legal and Moral Aspects, Defensive Driving and Maneuvering Course Exercises. Attendees will demonstrate knowledge of their Driver Training/Awareness skills and techniques. Attendees will practice/demonstrate low speed driving skills.

The course consists of a hands-on/practical Driver Training/Awareness for in-service officers.

DATE: 02/16/2026

TIME: 0800-1200 / 1300-1700

LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds 2601 Eats Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076

INSTRUCTORS:

- Cooper, Jacob
- Ross, Jesscia
- Waltrip, AJ
- Hutson, Sam
- Lopez, Sergio
- Engelhardt, Nate

DRIVING (PSP)

Minimum Topics/Exercises:

- a. Safety Policy/Orientation
- b. Policy, legal and moral issues
- c. Vehicle Dynamics
- d. Defensive driving
- e. Intersections exercise(s)
- f. Backing/parking exercise(s)
- g. Behind the wheel exercises to improve driving skills – judgment and decision making
- h. Class Exercises, Student Evaluation, and or optional Testing

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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The trainee will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of their Driver Awareness skills and techniques
2. Demonstrate a minimum standard of psychomotor skills with every technique and exercise to include:
 - A. Judgment and Decision Making
 - B. Policy, Legal and Moral Issues
 - C. Basic Driving Principles and Vehicle Dynamics
 - D. Defensive Driving

Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique and exercise. If the trainee

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does not meet minimum standards, as established by the presenter, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.

EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION II (a)
 - A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation
 - i. Course Roster
 - ii. Facility Overview
 - B. Course Objectives/Overview/Exercises, Evaluation/Testing
 - i. Course Objectives
 - 1. Judgment and Decision Making
 - 2. Policy, Legal and Moral Issues
 - 3. Basic Driving Principles and Vehicle Dynamics
 - 4. Defensive Driving
 - ii. Safety Policy/Orientation
- II. LEGAL AND MORAL ASPECTS II (b)
 - A. California codes
 - i. 17001 CVC
 - ii. 17004 CVC
 - iii. 17004.7 CVC
 - iv. 21052 CVC
 - v. 21055 CVC
 - vi. 21056 CVC
 - vii. 21057 CVC
 - viii. 21806 CVC
 - ix. 21807 CVC
 - x. 22350 CVC
 - xi. 13519 CVC
 - B. Case law
 - i. Brower v. Inyo (1989)
 - ii. Lewis v. Sacramento Co (1998)
 - iii. Cruz v. Briseno (2000)
 - iv. Nguyen v City of Westminster (2002)
 - v. Scott v. Harris (2007)
 - vi. Additional case law as determined by instructor
 - C. Agency policy
 - i. Emergency Response Policy

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- ii. Pursuit Policy
- iii. Additional agency policies
- D. Moral aspects

III. VEHICLE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

II (c)

- A. Pre-shift Vehicle Inspection Interior
 - i. General appearance
 - ii. Lights
 - 1. OEM
 - 2. Emergency
 - iii. Trunk
 - 1. Spare tire
 - 2. Fire extinguisher
 - 3. Jack / Lug wrench
 - 4. Flares
 - 5. First aid kit
 - 6. Blanket
 - iv. Interior
 - 1. Trash / Debris
 - 2. Clean windows
 - 3. Adjust seat and mirrors
 - 4. Check gauges
 - 5. Brakes
 - 6. Secure gear
 - 7. Seatbelts
 - v. Listen for unusual sounds
- B. Pre-shift Vehicle Inspection Exterior
 - i. General appearance
 - ii. Lights
 - iii. Tires
 - 1. Pressure
 - 2. Wear
 - 3. Damage
 - iv. Wheels
 - v. Body damage

IV. BASIC DRIVING PRINCIPLES

II (c)

- A. Weight Transfer
 - i. Weight distributed between front and rear wheels

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- ii. Types of weight transfer
 - 1. Lateral: Side to side
 - 2. Longitudinal: Front to rear/Rear to front
 - iii. Lateral transfer created when vehicle turned left/right
 - iv. Longitudinal transfer created when:
 - 1. Braking - Rear to front
 - 2. Accelerating - Front to rear
 - 3. Decelerating (lifting off accelerator)- Rear to front
 - v. Can't be completely eliminated in a moving vehicle
 - vi. Minimized by good driving techniques and smooth operation
- B. Steering Control
- i. Seating position
 - 1. Driver comfort
 - 2. Efficient vehicle control
 - 3. Wrist break over top of steering wheel
 - 4. Seated approximately 12" from air bag
 - 5. Adjust mirrors
 - ii. Steering method – Two hand shuffle steering
 - 1. Balanced hand positions per agency
 - 2. Hands do not leave steering wheel
 - 3. Maximizes steering accuracy
 - 4. Safer and more effective recovery
 - 5. Minimizes weight transfer
 - 6. Minimizes air bag deployment injury (9 and 3, 8 and 4)
 - iii. Steering method – Backing II (f)
 - 1. Body rotated to right
 - 2. Right hand placed on right headrest
 - 3. Vision directed over right shoulder
 - 4. Left hand on steering wheel at 12 o'clock position
 - 5. Left foot braced on floorboard
 - iv. Steering Method – Backing Utilizing Mirrors Only
 - 1. Body in normal driving position
 - 2. Check left and right mirrors (if possible, check rear view mirror)
 - 3. Check to ensure backup camera video and/or sensors are engaged (if applicable)
- C. Roadway Position
- i. Definition: 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
 - i. AKA – Driving line
 - ii. Driving points in a turn
 - a. Entry (Point #1)

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- b. Apex (Point #2)
 - Early
 - Traditional
 - Late
 - c. Exit (Point #3)
 - ii. Driving Advantages
 - 1. Minimize and control weight transfer
 - 2. Minimize steering input
 - 3. Smoother vehicle operation
 - 4. Maximum speed through turns in the safest manner

V. DEFENSIVE DRIVING

II (d)

- A. Defensive Drivers
 - i. Avoid collisions regardless of right-of-way
 - ii. React properly to hazards
 - iii. Maintain a professional attitude
- B. Dangerous Driver Attitudes
 - i. Overconfidence
 - ii. Self-righteousness
 - iii. Impatience
 - iv. Preoccupation
 - v. Distracted driving/Multi-tasking
- C. Collision Avoidance
 - i. Space cushion
 - 1. Three second rule
 - 2. Perception / Reaction time
 - 3. When stopped, see rear wheels of vehicle directly in front
 - ii. Intersections II (e)
 - 1. Clear left, right, then left again
 - 2. Cover brake on stale green
 - 3. Don't turn wheels until ready for turn
 - 4. Look through turns
 - iii. Maintain high visual horizon
 - iv. Consider steering to the rear of a conflict vehicle
 - v. Backing
 - 1. Large percentage of collisions involving LE vehicles
 - 2. Use proper backing techniques
 - 3. Use of or backup cameras
 - vi. Lane changes
 - 1. Signal
 - 2. Check mirrors
 - 3. Optional back up camera

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- vii. Blind spots
 - 1. Clear blind spots by looking over shoulders
 - 2. Use of mirrors
 - 3. Optional backup cameras
- viii. Accident Mitigation Systems
 - 1. Agency policy
 - 2. Manufacture advisements
- D. Occupant Safety Devices
 - i. Safety belts
 - ii. Supplemental Restraint System (air bags)
- E. Vehicle Dynamics **II (c)**
 - i. Rear wheel cheat
 - ii. Front-end swing
 - iii. Oversteer
 - iv. Understeer
 - v. Counter-steer

VI. MANEUVERING COURSE EXERCISES **II (g, h)**

- A. Offset Lane Exercise (Forward and Reverse)
 - i. Roadway positioning (eye Placement and steering input)
 - ii. Appropriate throttle control and brake application
 - iii. Conscious of rear wheel cheat and front end swing
 - iv. Usage of pivot point (Reverse direction)
 - v. Appropriate usage of mirror (reverse direction)
- B. Turn-Around Maneuver Exercise
 - i. Student will demonstrate three-point turnaround, bootleg, and modified bootleg
 - ii. Maintain constant visual awareness of objects to the rear and sides until vehicle comes to a stop
 - iii. Demonstrate reverse steering (pivot point and front-end swing)
- C. Steering course Exercise
 - i. Demonstrate proper application of forward and reverse methods of steering
 - ii. Coordination of steering and throttle control to minimize weight transfer during turning movements
 - iii. Maneuver around obstacles without striking them
- D. "T" Driveway
 - i. Appropriate lane placement
 - ii. Appropriate adjustments for rear wheel cheat
- E. Parallel Parking Exercise **II (f)**
 - i. Appropriate setup
 - ii. Finish within 18" of the curb

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- F. Serpentine
 - i. Setup/Knowledge of pivot point location
 - ii. Appropriate usage of mirrors
 - iii. Steering input and throttle control needed to accomplish goal
 - iv. Control of rear wheel cheat and front-end swing
- G. Additional Maneuvering Exercises as determined by Instructor
 - i. Refer to Driver Awareness Instructor Manual
 - ii. Refer to Emergency Vehicle Operations Manual

VII. TESTING/REMEDICATION

II (h)

Testing: Any student scoring below standard on any exercise, as established by the presenter, will be remediated, and tested until competency is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the presenter.